FIRE ALARM FOR GROUP-I OCCUPANCIES

INTRODUCTION TO FIRE ALARM BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | JULY 2022

SUMMARY

Institutional (Group I) occupancies are complex; they deal with occupants who are not always capable of self-preservation.

- Group I occupancies break further down into I-1, I-2, I-3, and I-4 based on the number of occupants and their level of care and supervision.
- To find the minimum code requirements for Group I occupancies, we start in Section 907.2.6 of the International Building Code (2021 Edition).
    - Requirements can include manual pull stations, automatic smoke detection, notification, and sprinkler monitoring.
- It's recommended to spend at least several hours researching and familiarizing the minimum code requirements, as this is one of the more complex areas of fire alarm requirements.
- Consider value-added elements that can provide better levels of protection and meet the owner's intent. An example shared was with a mental health facility where remote annunciators where provided at nursing stations, and VESDA (very early smoke detection apparatus) ports were provided to actively sample patient rooms where close supervision was necessary.

Group I-1
(more than 16 Non-Staff Persons, 24-hour supervised care environment)

Group I-2
(Condition 1: nursing/medical but no emergency, Condition 2: could provide emergency care)

Group I-3
(more than 5 occupants under restraint or security)

Group I-4
(more than 5 occupants who receive custodial care for fewer than 24 hours a day by other than guardians)

CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES

IBC – 2021: Section 907.2.6 Fire Alarm Requirements for Group I Occupancies

VIDEO LINK

www.meyerfire.com/university/fire-alarm-requirements-for-i-occupancies

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