

HOUSEHOLD & COMBINATION FA SYSTEMS

INTRODUCTION TO FIRE ALARM SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | SEPTEMBER 2022

SUMMARY

A **Household Fire Alarm System** uses smoke detectors instead of smoke alarms. These smoke detectors are connected to a control unit.

- Is it then a commercial fire alarm system? No. NFPA 72 Section 29.1.3 removes many of the chapters of NFPA 72 from applying.
- What is required for household fire alarm systems? Smoke detectors in bedrooms and guestrooms, outside of each bedroom or guest room, and on every level of the residence. These are similar to single- and multi-station alarm requirements.
- The control unit is required to be listed by UL 985, or as alternatives, UL 864 or UL 1730.
- Household fire alarm systems are rare. They are only required under NFPA 72 when the number of devices exceeds 18.

A **Combination Fire Alarm System** integrates the features of a household fire alarm system, except the panel also incorporates other features like security. Fire alarm signals have to take precedence, but these combination systems are far more common than household systems.



Household Fire Alarm System
(Note the wiring and presence of a control unit)



A Combination Fire Alarm System
(Note both fire and security are features of this system)

CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES



- NFPA 72 – 2022: Section 29.1.3 Exclusions for Requirements of Household Fire Alarm Systems
- NFPA 72 – 2022: Section 29.3.1 Devices and Equipment Listings and Approval
- NFPA 72 – 2022: Section 29.10.7.2 Fire Alarm Signals Taking Precedent over other Features
- NFPA 72 – 2022: Section 29.11.2.1 Requirement for Household System once Number of Devices Exceeds 18

VIDEO LINK

www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-a-household-fire-alarm-system

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