




**COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Division of the Fire Marshal**  
**Administrative Ruling**



|                        |   |                     |   |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| <b>Number:</b>         | <b>2015-1R</b>  |                     |   |
| <b>Subject:</b>        | <b>Delay in Reporting Primary Power Failure</b>               |                     |   |
| <b>Reference:</b>      | <b>NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm &amp; Signaling Code, 2019</b> |                     |   |
| <b>Effective Date:</b> | <b>09/21/2015</b>   | <b>Issued By:</b>   | <b>Doreen Withee, Fire Protection Engineer</b>  |
| <b>Revision Date:</b>  | <b>10/08/2019</b>   | <b>Revised By:</b>  | <b>Doreen Withee, Fire Protection Engineer</b>  |
| <b>Approval Date:</b>  | <b>10/31/2019</b>   | <b>Approved By:</b> | <b>Brett T. Lacey, Fire Marshal</b>  |

**PURPOSE:** Address conflicts on primary power failure reporting requirements for new and existing fire alarm systems and control panels.

**SCOPE:** All fire alarm systems required by the 2015 International Fire Code, as amended.

**DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE:** NFPA 72 Section 10.6.9.3 requires that unless prohibited by the authority having jurisdiction, supervising station alarm systems shall be arranged to delay transmission of primary power failure signals for a period ranging from 60 - 180 minutes. This is a change from earlier editions of NFPA 72 that permitted 0 - 6 hours. CSFD has experienced several instances of existing systems undergoing main control panel replacements, where sub- or slave panels having no delay in reporting primary power failure, is overshadowing a delay of the same trouble signal on a new panel. This conflict in transmission delays introduces a failure point during the inspection.

The purpose of the delay in reporting primary power failure is to prevent supervising stations from being overwhelmed in the event of a widespread power outage. However, CSFD has never implemented any directives to assign the delays to particular addresses. Designers have historically been permitted to choose the time of the delay, within the restrictions of NFPA 72

**DECISION:** Because these signals do not dispatch emergency services, CSFD will no longer enforce the delay in the transmission of a primary power failure trouble signal. As long as the signal is processed and reported in accordance with NFPA 72, it shall be deemed as acceptable.