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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** RECORD

**FROM:** Christopher Schlaps, Director, Facilities Planning and Development  
Heather Graham Lewis, Architectural Manager  
William O'Dell, Lead Electrical Engineer

**DATE:** March 14, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Fire Alarm Strobe Requirements in Michigan Medicine  
Hospitals and Health Center Facilities

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**Background:**

Visible fire alarm notification devices, “strobes,” supplement audible fire alarms by providing notification for the hearing impaired. Strobes are required by code in “Public Use” locations such as lobbies and corridors, and “Common Use” spaces such as conference rooms and staff lounges.

When original ADA came out in 1991, “Common Use” was defined as a nonpublic space that could be shared by 2 or more people. This created confusion about the need for a fire alarm strobe in a multi-person office. FPD was among the many groups that reviewed this, and in reaction FPD created a policy paper which required a fire alarm strobe be installed in every new office with 2 or more staff workstations.

Today, new codes are in place. We have reviewed the list of codes below, and have reviewed this issue in detail with UM EHS Fire and Building Officials, and Michigan Bureau of Fire Services staff, and can issue the following new policy.

**Revised Policy:**

- A. Fire alarm strobes will be included in the design for Public and Common Use spaces, including the following:
1. Public areas including lobbies, waiting rooms, dining rooms
  2. Conference Rooms and Classrooms
  3. Auditoriums
  4. Team rooms and team workrooms
  5. Residents’ rooms
  6. Staff lounges
  7. Staff Locker rooms
  8. Departmental Libraries
  9. Corridors
  10. Nursing stations
  11. Charting areas and other “touch down” type workstations with “transient staff”
  12. Single occupancy and multi-stall restrooms
  13. Corridors and elevator lobbies
  14. Offices over 200 square feet

15. Lactation rooms
16. Chapels and meditation spaces
17. All other spaces defined as Public or Common use spaces

B. The following locations do not require fire alarm strobes for the design:

1. Employee offices less than 200 square feet with assigned staff.
2. Inpatient sleeping rooms including restrooms \*\*
3. Surgical Operating and Procedure Rooms \*\*
4. Diagnostic and Treatment Procedure Rooms \*\*
5. Exam Rooms \*\*
6. Other patient areas, such as dressing rooms, where MM staff are required to respond to patients in accordance with the facility fire plan. \*\*
7. Psychiatric Areas where their use might disrupt patient care. \*\*
8. Closets and coat rooms.
9. Electrical closets.
10. Mechanical pipe chases.
11. Crawl Spaces.
12. Custodial closets.
13. Storage rooms less than 200 square feet.
14. Unoccupied spaces under 200 square feet.

*\*\* Note these locations are specifically excluded under NFPA 99, 2012, and apply to Healthcare and Ambulatory Healthcare Occupancies.*

C. Consistent with other accommodations for a specific employee disability, the Michigan Medicine Department would request the installation of a fire alarm strobe through a Facilities Planning Request.

**Code References:**

1. Life Safety Code, NFPA 101, 2012 (enforced by MBFS on Healthcare and Ambulatory Healthcare Occupancies). That document references:
  - a. National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code NFPA 72, 2010
  - b. Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities, ICC/ANSI A117.1, 2009
    - i. That document references NFPA 72, 2007
  - c. NFPA 99, 2012
2. Michigan Building Code, 2015 (enforced by University of Michigan). That document references:
  - a. NFPA 72, 2013
  - b. ICC A117.1-2009
3. 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Dept of Justice, Sept. 15, 2010
4. Code of Federal Regulations, US Government Publishing Office, Title 28, Judicial Administration, Chapter 1, Part 36 “Non Discrimination on the Basis of Disability by Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities, Annex B to part 36: “Analysis and Commentary on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design”



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR

DATE: June 1, 2018

TO: University of Michigan, Facilities Planning and Development

FROM: Brian Williams, Plan Review Division, Bureau of Fire Services

SUBJECT: Acceptance of "Fire Alarm Strobe Requirements in Michigan Medicine Hospitals and Health Care Facilities" Memorandum dated March 14, 2018.

The Bureau of Fire Services' Plan Review Division has reviewed the list of locations that don't require a fire alarm strobe as shown on your memorandum. The Plan Review Division is in agreement with the 14 items listed. Please keep in mind that there are some areas that don't always fall neatly into one of these items on the list. As an authority having jurisdiction, BFS reserves the right to require additional strobes where they are required by the Health Facilities Fire Safety Rules.

Regards,

Plan Review Division  
Bureau of Fire Services