**15-054**

**1. State Building Code to be Amended:**

International Building Code  State Energy Code

ICC ANSI A117.1 Accessibility Code  International Mechanical Code

International Existing Building Code  International Fuel Gas Code

International Residential Code  NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code

International Fire Code  NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code

Uniform Plumbing Code  Wildland Urban Interface Code

**Section(s): 907.5.2.1.3 (NEW)**

(e.g.: Section: R403.2)

**Title: Occupant notification zoning for Group I-2.**

(e.g: Footings for wood foundations)

**2. Proponent Name (Specific local government, organization or individual):**

**Proponent: Shawn Shepherd**

**Title: Deputy Fire Marshal**

**Date: 2/27/2015**

**3. Designated Contact Person:**

**Name: Shawn Shepherd**

**Title: Deputy Fire Marshal**

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**4. Proposed Code Amendment**. Reproduce the section to be amended by underlining all added language, striking through all deleted language. Insert new sections in the appropriate place in the code in order to continue the established numbering system of the code. If more than one section is proposed for amendment or more than one page is needed for reproducing the affected section of the code additional pages may be attached. (Examples on the SBCC [website](https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/sbcc/Page.aspx?nid=191))

**Code(s)** \_\_\_IFC\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Section(s)** \_\_\_**907.5.2.1.3 (NEW)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Enforceable code language must be used; see an example [by clicking here](https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/SBCC/File.ashx?cid=1803).

Amend section to read as follows:

**907.5.2.1.3 Occupant notification zoning for Group I-2 occupancies.**

Occupant notification zone for Group I-2, condition 1 and 2 shall be the smoke compartment where the alarm signal originates and shall utilize the private operating mode. For occupant notification zones other than the smoke compartment of origin where the alarm signal originates:

1. For other than emergency voice/alarm communication systems, the notification of other occupant notification zones shall by methods identified in the fire safety evacuation plan required by Section 404.
2. For emergency voice/alarm communication systems the alarm signal shall sound a constantly attended location in the smoke compartment of origin, and notification of staff not within the smoke compartment of origin shall by the emergency voice/alarm communication system or using the overhead paging system. For public or common use areas the system shall initiate the general evacuation signal.
3. **Briefly explain your proposed amendment, including the purpose, benefits and problems addressed.** Specifically note any impacts or benefits to business, and specify construction types, industries and services that would be affected. Finally, please note any potential impact on enforcement such as special reporting requirements or additional inspections required.

The fire code does not clearly state the requirements for notification zones within Group I-2 occupancies. The building code requires these occupancies to be provided with not less than two smoke compartments per floor. Typical emergency procedures is to not evacuate but to relocate using staff to either manually relocate patients or to direct those mobile patients to relocate. With the evacuation actually being staged relocation from one smoke compartment to the adjacent one and then relocate either directly outside if possible, or to another adjacent compartment or to begin vertical relocation. The act of relocation is performed by the patients themselves, or by assistance from staff, and the additional staff must come from within the facility. The base alarm signal from a fire alarm system operating in public mode is to evacuate with the assumption that all parties hearing or seeing the signal can do so without assistance. The code states that the private mode is an alternative, leaving a designer to believe that a public operating mode system is also acceptable. This provision clearly states that private operating mode is required fro such occupancies.

Additionally, based on the smoke compartment design concept, the notification signal should be heard first in the smoke compartment where the emergency initiates, whether by fire detection system or fire sprinkler system activation. With this initial signal received in the compartment of origin, the staff can immediately notify the remaining compartment for the need for additional staff to implement emergency procedures. If the alarm signal is not restricted to the initial compartment and is heard throughout the facility, then the additional staff needed in the compartment of origin would be left implementing the emergency procedures in their own compartments and not were needed. This proposal addresses those occupancies having older fire alarms systems without voice capability and those with such capability.

1. **Specify what criteria this proposal meets.** You may select more than one.

The amendment is needed to address a critical life/safety need.

The amendment is needed to address a specific state policy or statute.

The amendment is needed for consistency with state or federal regulations.

The amendment is needed to address a unique character of the state.

The amendment corrects errors and omissions.

1. **Is there an economic impact:**  Yes      No

Explain:

Cost impact is minimal as this requirement allows the changes to be caught at the early design phase of a project and not when the building is under construction as is typical since the fire alarm system is a deferred submittal allowing construction to occur and then had fire protection design considered.

\*\*Unable to quantify are the construction benefits. A basic primary benefit is for building being modified while still in operation and occupied. If the building is designed as above, then the smoke compartment may continue to be occupied while the adjacent one is modified due to the inherent system design. This prevents the occupancy in spending additional monies for firewatch or other system modifications.

If there is an economic impact, use the Table below to estimate the costs and savings of the proposal on construction practices, users and/or the public, the enforcement community, and operation and maintenance. If preferred, you may submit an alternate cost benefit analysis.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Building Type | Construction[[1]](#footnote-1) | | Enforcement[[2]](#footnote-2) | | Operations & Maintenance[[3]](#footnote-3) | |
| Costs | Benefits[[4]](#footnote-4) | Costs | Benefits4 | Costs | Benefits4 |
| Residential |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Single family |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Multi-family |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commercial/Retail |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Industrial |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Institutional | $5-8,000 | \*\* |  |  |  | \*\* |

Please send your completed proposal to: [sbcc@ga.wa.gov](mailto:sbcc@ga.wa.gov)

All questions must be answered to be considered complete. Incomplete proposals will not be accepted.

1. $ / square foot of floor area or other cost. Attach data. **Construction** costs are costs prior to occupancy, and include both design and direct construction costs

   that impact the total cost of the construction to the owner/consumer. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Cost per project plan. Attach data. **Enforcement** costs include governmental review of plans, field inspection, and other action required for enforcement. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Cost to building owner/tenants over the life of the project. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Measurable benefit. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)