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CHAPTER 12 • New

for discovering fire and alerting occupants — even if such means do not meet the myriad requirements of *NFPA 72*.

The provisions of 12/13.3.4.2.3 recognize that a fire developing in an unoccupied, nonsprinklered, hazardous area while the assembly area is in use could go undiscovered. Although separated by 1-hour fire resistance–rated barriers, these hazardous areas can present a significant hazard to occupants. Because a fire alarm system is already required, the additional requirement for either heat or smoke detection, as appropriate, is not a significant burden. Where sprinkler protection is provided, the fire is expected to be controlled, permitting early detection to be exempted.

The intent of 12/13.3.4.3 is to provide an alarm system that will not elicit a panic reaction from occupants. The panic reaction is avoided by providing a system that will permit activation by manual fire alarm boxes as required by 9.6.2 but that will not sound an audible alarm in the seating or audience areas of the assembly occupancy. In lieu of the audible alarm throughout the assembly occupancy, the system must provide an audible alarm (and, for new installations, a visible alarm) in a constantly attended location. "Constantly attended," in this case, means that the alarm panel must be attended while the assembly occupancy is in use. From that constantly attended location, voice messages that instruct the occupants can be issued via a public address or voice communication system. This method allows for the orderly evacuation of the occupants and the issuance of proper evacuation instructions rather than simply providing an evacuation alarm that might produce panic. The *Code* permits the use of recorded or electronically synthesized evacuation instructions that will automatically be played upon initiation of the system. With the approval of the AHJ, this arrangement is permitted to be used in lieu of the attended station.

Exhibit 12/13.78 shows an alarm system occupant notification appliance. The appliance provides visible signals as required for new systems as well as an audible alerting tone to get the attention of occupants. The required voice message is then delivered over separate speakers.

Exhibit 12/13.78

Alarm system appliance to provide visible signal and initial audible alerting tone to occupants.

12.3.5 Extinguishment Requirements.

12.3.5.1 The following assembly occupancies shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1):

(1) Dance halls
(2) Discotheques
(3) Nightclubs
(4) Assembly occupancies with festival seating

12.3.5.2 Any building containing one or more assembly occupancies where the aggregate occupant load of the assembly occupancies exceeds 300 shall be protected by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7 as follows *(see also 12.1.6, 12.2.6, 12.3.2, and 12.3.6)*:

(1) Throughout the story containing the assembly occupancy
(2) Throughout all stories below the story containing the assembly occupancy

CHAPTER 13 • Existing

13.3.5 Extinguishment Requirements. See also 13.1.6, 13.2.6, and 13.3.2.

13.3.5.1 Where the occupant load exceeds 100, the following assembly occupancies shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1):

(1) Dance halls
(2) Discotheques
(3) Nightclubs
(4) Assembly occupancies with festival seating

13.3.5.2 Any assembly occupancy used or capable of being used for exhibition or display purposes shall be protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7 where the exhibition or display area exceeds 15,000 ft^2 (1400 m^2).