

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER # 2009-1

Areas of Refuge: Two – Way Communication Systems

Purpose: The purpose of this Administrative Order is to provide guidance to the property owner, design professional, and contractor as to what type of two-way communication system is required to be installed between an Area of Refuge and a Central Control Point On-Premises or a Remote Off-Premises Constantly Attended Location.

Justification: This Administrative Order is in the interest of public safety and is important to occupants of buildings who are disabled and require assistance in evacuating the building, and the Manheim Township volunteer fire services in order to efficiently and effectively preplan for fire emergencies.

Applicability: This Administrative Order applies to all buildings where Areas of Refuge are required by the UCC and its referenced Codes and Standards.

Determination: As directed by the Director of Code Compliance or Designee, the two-way communication system required by the Code shall communicate voice communications by one of the two following methods;

1. Two-way communication systems shall transmit voice communications to a constantly attended Remote Off-Premises location, which shall be staffed 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The voice communications shall not be transmitted to voice-recorded only attended locations.
2. Two-way communication systems shall transmit voice communications to a Central Control Point On-Premises that is approved by the director of Code Compliance or designee. Upon any activation of a fire alarm signal from the structure where the Areas of Refuge are located, the owners' Emergency Evacuation Plan shall require an owner representative to go to the designated On-Premises Central Control Point to communicate with occupants in the Areas of Refuge. This On-Premises Central Control Point shall be manned until complete occupant evacuation of the related facility is verified.

Any requests for assistance from occupants in the Areas of Refuge, whether received at the constantly attended Remote Off-Premises location or the On-Premise Central Control Point, shall be communicated to the emergency services personnel at the scene who are providing assistance.

Issued by:



Effective Date:

January 2, 2009