INFORMATION NOTICE 2013-002

**Subject:** Use of IP Communicators for Fire Alarm System Communications

**Effective:** October 10, 2013

**Code Reference:** NFPA 72, Chapter 26 (2013 Edition)

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**SCOPE:**

Provide requirements to allow the use of IP communicators for fire alarm systems in lieu of the traditional two POTS lines typically required.

**DESCRIPTION OF CODE REFERENCE:**

Chapter 26 in NFPA 72 (2013 Edition) provides clarification with respect to this emerging technology and specifically speaks to the reliability of transmission methods and power supplies.

**RULING:**

Understanding that the traditional POTS lines are being phased out in favor of VOIP systems, and increased reliability of the internet and the inherent multiple pathways to the CSM, the Conroe Fire Department will permit the use of an IP communication method under the following conditions:

1. The secondary power supply for all equipment necessary for the transmission and reception of signals to the central station (internet gateway, router, etc.) shall meet the same battery backup requirements as the fire alarm system.
2. The IP communication device shall have the capability to transmit all signals in full addressability.
3. All IP communication devices shall be UL 864 OT listed.
4. All other requirements of the 2009 International Fire Code, NFPA 72 and Conroe Fire Department shall be met.

**APPROVED:**

Mike Legoudes
Conroe Fire Marshal