

FIRE-ALARM SYSTEMS

Glossary of terms

I. General. The following terms and their definitions are in common use in connexion with systems of fire-alarms, call bells, and fire-call sirens.

Term	Definition
* FIRE STATION	A building, or a part thereof, which accommodates mobile fire-fighting appliances, and usually tele-communication facilities for the receipt and distribution of fire-calls.
* UNATTENDED FIRE-STATION	A fire-station which is not staffed continuously.
* ATTENDED FIRE-STATION	A fire-station which is staffed continuously by one or more attendants or firemen.
* WATCHROOM	The room in which fire calls are received in a fire station and dealt with; it contains the telephone intercommunicating equipment and any alarm-recording apparatus, house-bell keys, call-bell keys etc.
* FIRE-ALARM	An electrical signalling device provided for summoning the fire service to the point which the fire-alarm is located.
* STREET FIRE-ALARM	A fire-alarm provided in the street for the use of the public.
* AUTOMATIC FIRE-ALARM	A fire-alarm provided in a building for summoning the fire service automatically when fire breaks out in the building.
* STREET FIRE-ALARM SYSTEM	A system of street fire-alarms connected by open or closed circuit to the fire station with or without, house-bells, call-bells or siren etc.
OPEN-CIRCUIT FIRE-ALARM WORKING	A method of working a fire-alarm system in which the line (or lines) connecting the street fire-alarm is normally disconnected, and is earthed or looped when the handle at the fire-alarm is 'pulled', thereby operating a signal at the fire station. An earthed or looped battery is connected to the line at the station.
CLOSED-CIRCUIT FIRE-ALARM WORKING	A method of working a fire-alarm system in which the street fire-alarms connected to the fire station are linked together by a continuous loop, around which a steady current is maintained. When a fire-alarm is 'pulled', the loop is interrupted in accordance with a definite code which operates recording apparatus at the fire station.
* BROKEN-CIRCUIT FIRE-ALARM WORKING	The method of working a normally closed-circuit fire-alarm circuit when the loop is disconnected, e.g. under fault condition. The battery and recording apparatus at the station are, in these conditions, connected to both wires in parallel in preparation for receiving code signals over either wire and earth.

Term	Definition
PLAIN-SECTOR FIRE-ALARM WORKING	A method of operating a closed-circuit system using code-signalling fire-alarms, in which there is no safeguard against the mutilation of signals, in the event of two fire-alarms on the same loop being 'pulled' simultaneously.
SUCCESSION FIRE-ALARM WORKING	A method of operating a closed-circuit system, using code-signalling fire-alarms, in which the codes of more than one fire-alarm 'pulled' simultaneously are transmitted without mutilation.
* REPEAT CIRCUIT	A circuit over which signals received at one fire station on a fire-alarm system are re-transmitted simultaneously to another station.
REGISTER	An electro-mechanical device, driven by clockwork, which records on a paper tape, either by punched holes or inking-code, impulses transmitted by a code-signalling fire-alarm.
TAKE-UP REEL	A clockwork-driven reel, which maintains the tension and winds-up the tape released by the register.
TIME AND DATE STAMP	A device which stamps automatically the date and time - to the nearest minute - upon the edge of the tape immediately after the receipt of a code signal over a fire-alarm circuit.
GONG	A large electro-mechanical bell at the fire station, which beats out the code signal received over a fire-alarm circuit.
* SILENT TEST	The testing of the fire-alarm signalling mechanism without transmitting a fire call.
ANNUNCIATOR	A flap indicator at the fire-station connected to the fire-alarm circuit. The operation of the fire-alarm causes the indicator flap to drop and expose the number and/or name of the call point.
FIRE TELEPHONE	A direct private telephone circuit between public buildings, institutions, business premises, etc. and the fire station.
DOOR PULL	An exposed non-locking pull-handle fitted on the outside of an attended fire-station, and which is accessible to the public.
* FIRE-BELL	An electric bell fitted in an attended fire station and operated exclusively by a door pull (or other switch) fitted on the outside of the fire station for use by the public in giving a fire call.
* HOUSE-BELL	An electric bell, (trambler or magneto), provided for fire-call purposes in an attended fire station at points away from the firemen's quarters e.g. in the appliance room, locker room or yard.
* CALL-BELL	An electric bell, (trambler or magneto), fitted at premises where firemen may be when on call for fire duty, e.g. at their private residences, their quarters at the fire station or their places of employment.
* CALL-BELL POINT	The point at which a call-bell is fitted.
* STATION CALL-BELL	A call-bell fitted in an unattended station for test purposes or for giving the alarm to firemen who may be present in the station.
* CALL-BELL GROUP	A number of call-bells tied, at points to suit the line plant layout, to a common line from the ring-out point.

Term	Definition
CALL-BELL SYSTEM	A system of call-bells or call-bell groups with one or more ring-out points.
RING-OUT POINT	The point at which electrical energy is applied directly to one or more call-bell groups for the purpose of sounding the bells.
LOCAL CONTROL OF CALL-BELLS	The control of call-bells by a manual operation at the ring-out point or points.
CALL-OUT POINT	The premises from which call-bells and/or sirens are remotely controlled.
REMOTE CONTROL OF CALL-BELLS	The control of call-bells by a manual operation at a call-out point located away from the ring-out point (or points).
CONTROL UNITS	Apparatus of unit construction provided at call-out and ring-out points for the remote control of call bells and/or sirens.
SIREN POINT	The place at which a siren is located.

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Term	Definition
LOCAL CONTROL OF A SIREN	The control of a siren by a manual operation at, or near, the siren point. This operation applies mains voltage direct to the siren contactor.
REMOTE CONTROL OF A SIREN	The control of a siren by a manual operation at a call-out point located away from the siren point.
* RUNNING-CALL FACILITY	Means whereby members of the public may give an alarm of fire either:- <p>(a) by operating a press button at the ring-out point of a remote control system, thus causing the call-bells and/or siren to operate</p> <p>(b) by making a telephone call to the call-out point over the private circuit associated with the remote control system.</p>

References:- None
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