Fire Detection Using Your Intruder Alarm

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Sounding the (fire) alarm

Wherever there's risk of fire, you'll want the Fire Service responding quickly to prevent losses. While an automatic fire detection system complying with NZS 4512 offers the best level of protection, you can also create a basic level of protection by connecting smoke or heat detectors to a monitored intruder alarm system.

Mix and match

Your alarm service provider can tell you whether your intruder alarm is capable of having smoke or heat detectors added to it. But before undertaking any work, it's also worth contacting your local council to see if they have any special requirements.

In case of fire

Tell your alarm monitoring agent to call 111 when the fire alert comes in to ensure fewer delays in getting the Fire Service to your building. You can provide this instruction at system set-up.

Considerations

- Does the system comply with the NZ Standard – NZS 2201 "Intruder Alarm Systems"?
- Is it monitored 24/7 so that the Fire Service can be alerted?
- Not sure? Talk to your alarm servicing agent.

Installation tips

- Detector locations and spacing must comply where possible with the NZ Standard – NZS 4512 "Fire Detection and Alarms in Buildings"
- Fire alarm must be wired into a circuit separate from the intruder alarm to ensure alerts between the two can be differentiated by monitoring agents
- Detectors must be installed in areas away from environmental conditions that may cause damage or trigger false alarms. (For example, using a smoke detector in a dusty area could result in false alarms as the detector thinks the dust is smoke)

All systems should be regularly checked and maintained. For intruder alarms with smoke or heat detectors attached, basic maintenance includes a weekly check to see if the sounders are working, a quarterly check to ensure the detectors are working properly, and an annual check-up by the servicing agent.

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