

## Risk Analysis and Mass Notification

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### Abstract

The new 2010 edition of NFPA 72, “National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code” now includes requirements for the design, installation and maintenance of mass notification systems. While the code does not require mass notification systems to be installed, if one is provided, the code requires that the system be specifically designed to address the nature and anticipated risks of the facility. The risk analysis also provides the basis for the development of the emergency response plan.

A mass notification system doesn't only serve during fire emergency, but must be designed to address its performance and function during all types of potential emergencies. The requirements and recommendations of NFPA 72 provide an excellent framework for use by designers responsible for mass notification systems. This paper reviews these requirements and the framework for performing the risk analysis.