WHAT IS MUNICIPAL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM?

INTRODUCTION TO FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | AUGUST 2022

SUMMARY

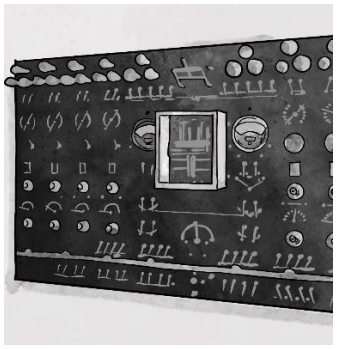
The granddaddy of the fire alarm industry – Municipal Fire Alarm Systems are a collection of basic mechanical components the directly connect urban locations with local fire departments. They are rarely used today but are still covered by NFPA 72.

- Municipal Fire Alarm Systems began in the mid-1800s to help firefighters get earlier notification of a fire within their area.
- These systems consist of Street Boxes, Master Boxes, Power Supply Boards, and Receiving Boards
- Their basic mechanical components and separation from telephone and electric lines made them very reliable and is why a few cities still use them today. These have been replaced by more advanced technology in the fire alarm industry.

Street Boxes
(On street corners or telephone poles)

Master Boxes
(used in schools, hospitals, buildings)

Power Supply Board
(600V DC powered, with backup battery charged by streetcars)



Receiving Board
(Used light signals and registers to record the source of the alarm)

CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES

NFPA 72 – 2022: 3.3.118.3 Definition of a Municipal Fire Alarm System

VIDEO LINK

www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-a-municipal-fire-alarm-system

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