

WHAT IS AN “EVACS” SYSTEM?

INTRODUCTION TO NOTIFICATION & INITIATION SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | JANUARY 2023

SUMMARY

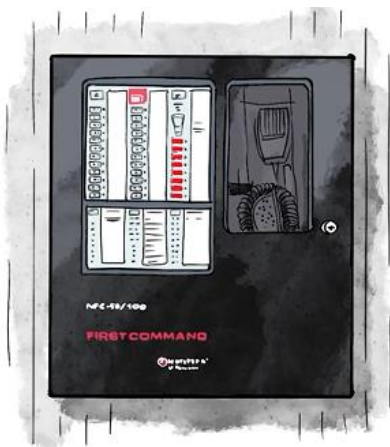
EVACS is an acronym that stands for **Emergency Voice/Alarm Communication System** (EVACS). It is a type of fire alarm system that uses a voice message in addition to a Temporal audible pattern.

- EVACS type systems are also referred to as “Voice” systems, as opposed to a traditional Temporal-3 “Horn/Strobe” system.
- EVACS or Voice Systems are becoming more common with each new code cycle. IBC Section 907 has requirements for EVACS in some Assembly, Educational, Special Amusement, Highrise, Atriums, Deep Underground and Covered Mall Buildings.
- **Emergency Voice (EV)**: Denotes notification that is by voice in lieu of a standard horn.
- **Alarm (A)**: Denotes an audible tone that still must meet the alarm requirements of NFPA 72 (15-decibels above ambient, as one example)
- **Communication System (CS)**: Denotes the ability for live voice annunciation and custom messaging.
- A principal feature and challenge with EVACS is intelligibility. This will be covered later, but in short, a message must be capable of being understood by a listener.



Live Voice Message

(Firefighter using a microphone at the main panel)



A Local Operating Console (LOC)

(Note the inclusion of a microphone to allow for live voice messaging)



Assembly Occupancy

(Large Assembly occupancies commonly require EVACS)

CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES



IBC – 2021: Section 907

VIDEO LINK

www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-an-evacs-system

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