

## THE CITY OF REDMOND FIRE DEPARTMENT PREVENTION DIVISION OWNER'S INFORMATION ON CENTRAL STATION SERVICE



As of May 2000, the only Fire Alarm System, Central Station Service, permitted in Redmond is that described in the National Fire Alarm Code, NFPA 72. Due to continuing coordination and service delivery problems, local hybrid combinations are no longer allowed. New systems are required to comply with the installation of their new systems. Existing systems need to comply as soon as their contracts allow, and prior to May 2001.

There are two issues that an owner should consider prior to selecting a vendor. **First**, You will be looking for a <u>single</u> company that can directly or by subcontracts supply all fire alarm services (monitoring, record keeping, maintenance, installation, runner service, emergency repair service etc.) to you under a <u>single</u> contract. **Second**, is this vendor a U.L. listed company (identified by the <u>UUFX</u> designation) able to provide Central Station Service? If they are not currently so listed, they will need to become listed before they can monitor or act as the Prime Contractor and issue verification certificates to your site. A verification certificate will be required as part of the approval of your system. The approximate cost per year, per site is \$30.

The following is an excerpt from a description of Central Station Service as found in the Underwriters Laboratories Directory. If your facility is associated with Factory Mutual a similar situation would also apply although some of the designations will be different.

## Central Station (UUFX) Service

Listings in this category cover central station service as covered by NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code.

Central station service is the use of a system or a group of systems in which the operation of circuits and devices at a protected property are signaled to, recorded in, and supervised from a central station included in this Listing category (UUFX) having competent and experienced operators who, upon receipt of a signal, take such action as required by the National Fire Alarm Code. Related activities at the protected property such as equipment installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and runner service are the responsibility of a company known as a prime contractor which is either the central station or a fire alarm service – local company included in this category.

The companies in the listings include:

1. **Full Service Company.** A central station that provides all elements of service required by the Standards either directly or through the sub-contracting of certain elements. A full service company is considered to be a prime contractor and has been qualified to issue UL Certificates for alarm systems.

- 2. **Monitoring Company.** A central station that is recognized <u>only</u> for signal monitoring, retransmission, record keeping, and report. A monitoring only company is not eligible to issue UL Certificates for alarm systems as this type of company does not bear responsibility for activities at the protected area involving equipment installation, inspection, testing, maintenance and runner service.
- 3. **Fire Alarm Service Local Company.** A company that provides installation, testing and maintenance for a protected area with its own personnel, and which subcontracts the monitoring, retransmission, and associated record keeping and reporting to a central station. Required runner service is handled either by the local service company or the central station full service company. A fire alarm service local company is considered to be a prime contractor and has been qualified to issue UL Certificates for alarm systems.

A central station alarm <u>system</u> is considered to be Listed only if a current active UL Certificate has been issued for the alarm system. Certificates for alarm systems can be issued only by (1) a full service central station company or (2) a fire alarm service – local company, either of which are defined by NFPA 72 as prime contractors. A monitoring only company is not authorized to issue Alarm System Certificates because this type of company has not been investigated for providing installation, testing, maintenance, and runner service for a protected area.

Information on the Central Station Certificate includes the name and address of the central station, the name and address of the installed systems, the extent and type of system, central station alarm retransmission means, issued and expiration dates, and the alarm service company. Each Certificate also bears a unique serial number. Underwriters Laboratories Inc.'s inspection program which is a counter check of an alarm company's certification practices is extended only to those systems which have an active, unexpired Certificate.

The Certificate Service is evidence that the alarm service company (1) is Listed as providing central station signaling service; (2) is authorized to issue the Certificate for the installation as its representation that the equipment and service is in compliance with the requirements in NFPA 72 "National Fire Alarm Code;" and (3) is subject to the Laboratories' field countercheck program whereby periodic reviews are made of representative installations and also at the central station in order to check the correctness of certification practices.