



DATE: February 16, 2022
FROM: Sean Lintz, Battalion Chief of Life Safety and Fire Prevention
SUBJECT: Elevator Hoistways and Elevator Cabs for Emergency Responder Two-Way Radio Communications

The purpose of this statement is to clarify and establish critical areas for Emergency Responder Two-Way Radio Communication with respect to an elevator hoistway and elevator cab.

Within the currently adopted Florida Fire Prevention Code Section 1:11.10, all new and existing buildings require a minimum radio strength to be maintained at a level as determined by the authority having jurisdiction. Where required by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), two-way radio communication enhancement systems shall comply with NFPA 1221: Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems.

Within the body of the code (NFPA 1221), critical areas for radio coverage are established in section 9.6.7.4, which reads as follows:

9.6.7.4 Critical Areas - Critical areas, including fire command centers, fire pump rooms, exit stairs, exit passageways, elevator lobbies, standpipe cabinets, sprinkler sectional valve locations, and other areas deemed critical by the AHJ, shall be provided with 99 percent floor area radio coverage.

Since this section of NFPA 1221 does not specifically state that an elevator hoistway or an elevator cab is a critical area, this statement will serve to clarify that the local AHJ views these areas as in need of critical coverage for fire department operations.

Within the North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District, with respect to in-building communication systems, BDA systems, DAS systems and all other systems installed to enhance fire department radio communications within a building or structure, all elevator hoistways and elevator cabs will be deemed as critical areas for the purposes of determining required minimum radio strength.

Sean Lintz

Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal