ALARM INSTALLERS — GUIDE

Fire alarm inspection rules: build a site-specific schedule

Use the NFPA summary as a starting point and ask the authority for the adopted requirements.

Updated November 10, 2026

Ask the fire alarm contractor to identify the code and edition that apply to the building. Ask the local authority to confirm that answer. A generic inspection reminder is not a site-specific compliance schedule.

What the public summary establishes

NFPA's public page for NFPA 72 identifies the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code and includes inspection, testing and maintenance among its topics. That summary, fetched 2026-11-10, is a starting point. It does not establish the inspection interval for your equipment or the law adopted at your address. This guide does not assign a universal inspection frequency.

Build the equipment record

Request the panel model, device list, location plan, approved drawings and previous test reports. Ask the contractor to identify missing records. Note changes to occupancy, layout or equipment since the last report. Have the responsible professional assess those changes.

Ask for a schedule with reasons

For each device group, ask for the inspection task, test task, interval, code reference and responsible party. Ask which tasks require a qualified contractor and which checks the site staff should perform. Request the reference and adopted edition beside each interval. Do not copy intervals from another building.

Coordinate a test

Ask who notifies occupants, the monitoring station and other affected parties. Obtain the provider's test procedure before work begins. Ask who manages temporary impairments and who confirms the system is back in service. Keep that responsibility explicit.

Review the report

Request the results, failed devices, inaccessible areas and corrective actions in a clear list. Ask which defects need immediate attention and who decides priority. Keep the repair evidence beside the original report. A paid invoice alone does not explain whether defects were corrected.

Monitoring and inspection are separate

UL's central station summary describes monitoring certification. Ask separately about installation, inspection and maintenance. Do not infer that a monitoring subscription includes every on-site task or satisfies every local requirement.

Sources

- National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 72 public standard-development summary. Public page fetched 2026-11-10: https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-72-standard-development/72.
- UL Solutions, Central Station Service Certification. Public page fetched 2026-11-10: https://www.ul.com/services/central-station-service-certification.

Frequently asked questions

Can I use this guide instead of a site assessment?

No. Ask an alarm company for a written assessment. Confirm local requirements with the authority that applies to the property.