


TECHNICAL BULLETIN CITY OF RALEIGH, N.C. www.raleighnc.gov				OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL	
Subject	Bulletin #	SECTION	PAGE	EFFECTIVE DATE	
Fire command Center	TB-19	NC building codes	1 of 2	1/3/2020	
		PREPARED BY Office of the Fire Marshal			Revision Date 01/03/2020

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to identify examples of past approved Fire command centers located inside high-rise buildings. Please be sure to gain approval prior to final design. The FCC must be approved prior to the plan review.

2.0 Organization(s) Affected

Raleigh Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal; City of Raleigh Development Services; Architects, Engineers, owners, general contractors and sub-contractors

3.0 Definitions

High-rise building – A building with an occupied floor more than 75 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.

Fire Command Center - The principal attended or unattended location where the status of detection, alarm communications and control systems is displayed, and from which the systems can be manually controlled. Fire command centers are communication centers where dedicated manual and automatic facilities are located for the origination, control and transmission of information and instruction pertaining to a fire emergency to the occupants (including fire department personnel) of the building. Fire command centers must provide facilities for the control and display of the status of all fire protection (detection, signaling, etc.) systems. These stations must be located in secure areas as approved by the authority having jurisdiction. Often this is a location near the primary building entrance.

Fire command. A fire command center complying with NC Fire code and building code section 911. Fireground operations usually involve establishing an incident command post where the fire official can observe what is happening, control arriving personnel and equipment, and direct resources and fire-fighting operations effectively. Because of the difficulties in controlling a fire in a high-rise building, a separate room (enclosed in 1-hour-rated construction) within the building must be established as a fire command center. The

room must contain equipment necessary to monitor or control fire protection and other building service systems (see Section 911 for further information).

4.0 **References**

North Carolina Fire Protection Code (NCFPC), North Carolina Building Code (NCBC)

5.0 **Requirements**

Standby and emergency power system: Standby and emergency power system supervised with manual start and transfer features shall be provided at the fire command center.

Stairway door operation. Stairway doors other than the exit discharge doors shall be permitted to be locked from the stairway side. Stairway doors that are locked from the stairway side shall be capable of being unlocked simultaneously without unlatching upon a signal from the fire command center. (Stairway communication system. A telephone or other two-way communications system connected to an approved constantly attended station shall be provided at not less than every fifth floor in each stairway where the doors to the stairway are locked.)

Control diagrams. Identical control diagrams showing all devices in the system and identifying their location and function shall be maintained current and kept on file.

Fire fighter's smoke control panel. A fire fighter's smoke control panel for fire department emergency response purposes only shall be provided and shall include manual control or override of automatic control for mechanical smoke control systems.

Smoke control systems. Fans within the building shall be shown on the fire fighter's control panel. A clear indication of the direction of airflow and the relationship of components shall be displayed. Status indicators shall be provided for all smoke control equipment, annunciated by fan and zone, and by pilot-lamp-type indicators as follows:

1. Fans, dampers and other operating equipment in their normal status—WHITE.
2. Fans, dampers and other operating equipment in their off or closed status—RED.
3. Fans, dampers and other operating equipment in their on or open status—GREEN.
4. Fans, dampers and other operating equipment in a fault status—YELLOW/AMBER.

Smoke control panel. The fire fighter's control panel shall provide control capability over the complete smoke control system equipment within the building.

