

2. Emergency Voice Evacuation or Communication System (EVC)

2.1. Intention

- 2.1.1. The provisions of this chapter are to convey building fire alarm signals to people through pre-recorded voice messages or through live public address messages on building voice speaker system.
- 2.1.2. Voice Evacuation or communication systems are a very essential communication tools in high rise, Superhighrise, crowded assembly buildings, schools and malls, to efficiently manage people during fire and other emergencies. This chapter addresses the requirements for proper design and installation of the Emergency Voice Evacuation or Communication System.

2.2. General

- 2.2.1. **Pre-recorded** Emergency Voice messages shall be prepared by people who are familiar with fire emergency procedures and evacuation strategies.
- 2.2.2. The pre-recorded voice messages shall be both in Arabic and English, in an accent which is familiar and intelligible to the people of UAE, which is a cosmopolitan with more than 165 nationals living in the country.
- 2.2.3. Pre-recorded messages shall be simple and to the point.
- 2.2.4. Voice messages shall not be generalized to all buildings. Voice messages shall be customized to specific buildings with specific directions or actions to be taken by the occupants.
- 2.2.5. Voice messages shall be automatic. The Emergency Voice Evacuation or Communication System response shall be an automatic response, upon the receipt of confirmed Fire Alarm Signal, be it automatic or manually triggered.
- 2.2.6. It is consultant's responsibility to design and execute intelligible voice messages, based on acoustic features of the area, ceiling height, sound absorption of materials in the area etc., where audible voice messages are delivered as intended to people clearly, intelligibly and meaningfully.
- 2.2.7. It is consultant's responsibility to refer to **NFPA 1, NFPA 70, NFPA 72, NFPA 101** and **Manufacturer's design guidelines** for further clarifications and code compliant Emergency Voice Evacuation Systems.

Did You Know?

Pre-recorded messages prepared and recorded by non-fire professionals, in an accent that is limited to certain section of the population, may fail to serve the purpose.

Voice messages should be clear and simple in an accent that is intelligible to more than 165 nationalities living in the UAE.