



Office of the Director General

The General Manager  
All Councils

13/06112

Dear Sir/Madam

**Isolation of Smoke Alarm Systems for Theatrical Purposes**

I write to seek your assistance in communicating with relevant building owners in your local area about the dangers of isolating (switching off) smoke detection and alarm systems in buildings where smoke generating machines or indoor pyrotechnics are being used.

The Department has been made aware of recent incidents involving the isolation of smoke detection and alarm systems in certain buildings so as to avoid false alarms where smoke generating machines or indoor pyrotechnics are being used. Affected buildings may include entertainment venues, function centres, clubs, hotels and the like.

The isolation of alarm systems in these circumstances poses a significant safety risk to the building occupants as it could impede or delay the evacuation of a building and affect the notification of Fire and Rescue NSW in the event of a fire. The isolation of required alarm systems for such purposes is not permitted and is a breach of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000.

Councils play an important role in monitoring the safety of buildings in their local areas. I am therefore requesting that each council communicate directly with relevant building owners in the local area about the risks associated with the isolation of smoke detection and alarm systems in the abovementioned circumstances. I would be pleased for you to include a copy of this letter in any communication you undertake.

Should you have any further enquiries about this matter, I have arranged for Stephen Dumford, Team Leader of the Building Systems Unit, of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to assist you. He can be contacted on telephone number 02 8575 4011.

Yours sincerely

  
Sam Haddad  
Director General

8/5/2013 .