

**CHAPTER 9
FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

**SECTION 907.2.9, ITEM 1
IFC Interpretation No. 26-03
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907.2.9 Group R-2. A fire alarm system shall be installed in Group R-2 occupancies where:

1. Any dwelling unit is located three or more stories above the lowest level of exit discharge;
2. Any dwelling unit is located more than one story below the highest level of exit discharge of exits serving the dwelling unit;
or
3. The building contains more than 16 dwelling units.

Exceptions:

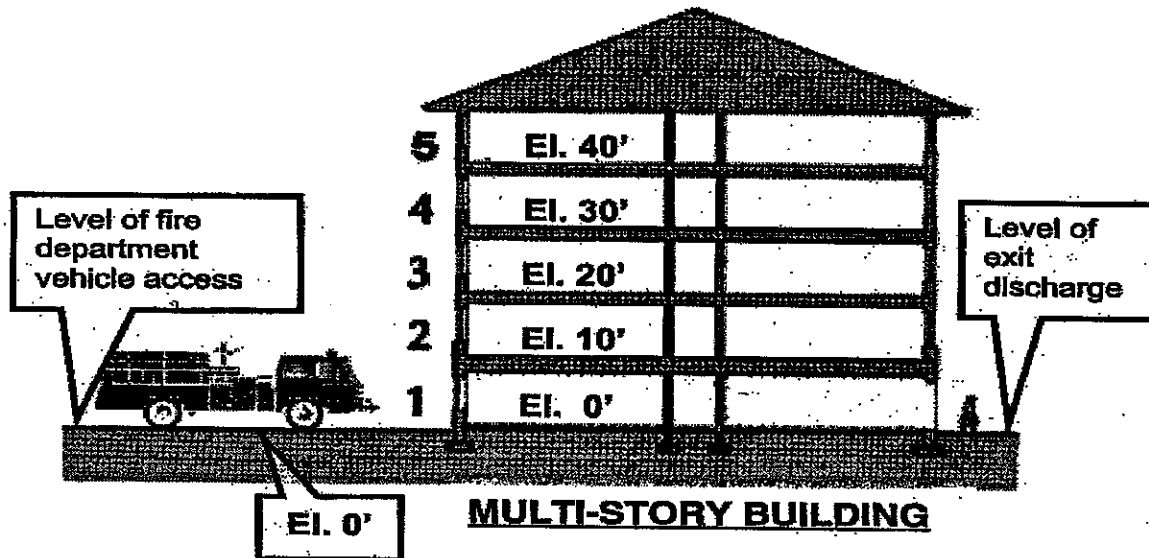
1. A fire alarm system is not required in buildings not over two stories in height where all dwelling units and contiguous attic and crawl spaces are separated from each other and public or common areas by at least 1-hour fire partitions and each dwelling unit has an exit directly to a public way, exit court or yard.
2. A separate fire alarm system is not required in buildings that are equipped throughout with an approved supervised automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 and which have a local alarm that meets the notification requirements of Section 907.10.2.



Q: Given a building on grade, without a basement, see Attachment No. 1 drawing of a Multi-Story Building. Is the second story of this building the first story above the lowest level of exit discharge?

A: No. When determining stories above the lowest level of exit discharge, a level, or floor level, is not a story. A "level" is the horizontal plane that is part of a story, not the entire story height. A "story" is the vertical space between the upper surface of one floor level and the upper surface of the floor level next above or below.

The level of exit discharge as shown in attached drawing of a Multi-Story Building is at elevation 0.0', the first floor level of the building is also at elevation 0.0' ; therefore, the level of exit discharge and the first floor level of the building are at the same elevation. The first story of the building begins at elevation 0.0' (first floor) and extends to elevation 10.0' (second floor). The first story of the building is the first story above the level of exit discharge.



Attachment No. 1