

**WAC 296-307-34506 What general requirements apply to employee alarm systems?** (1) Your employee alarm system must provide warning for necessary emergency action called for in the emergency action plan, or safe escape of employees from the workplace.

(2) You must ensure that all employees can see or hear your employee alarm above normal noise or light levels in the workplace. You may use tactile devices to alert employees who can not see or hear the alarm.

(3) You must ensure that your employee alarm is recognizable as an evacuation signal or signal to perform actions designated under the emergency action plan.

(4) You must explain to each employee how to report emergencies. For example: They may use manual pull box alarms, public address systems, radio or telephones. You must post emergency telephone numbers near telephones, or employee notice boards when telephones serve as a means of reporting emergencies. When your communication system also serves as the employee alarm system, you must ensure that all emergency messages have priority over all nonemergency messages.

(5) You must establish procedures for sounding emergency alarms in the workplace. If you have ten or fewer employees in a workplace, direct voice communication is an acceptable procedure for sounding the alarm if all employees can hear it. In this case, you do not need a back-up system.

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