To: Interested Parties

Subject:

Standards Council Decision (Short): D#15-2
Standards Council Agenda Item: SC#15-8-6-b
Date of Decision*: 19 August 2015
NFPA 72®, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, 2016 Edition

Dear Interested Parties:

At its meeting of August 17-19, 2015, the Standards Council considered an appeal from Vic Humm of Humm and Associates regarding issuance of NFPA 72®, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, 2016 Edition. Mr. Humm sought Standards Council action to overturn the Association action at the 2015 NFPA Technical Meeting taken on CAM 72-2 which failed on the floor. Specifically, the appeal seeks to Reject Second Revision No. 71 resulting in the following:

18.5.3.2* The maximum light pulse duration shall be 0.2 second 20 milliseconds with a maximum duty cycle of 40 percent.

Exception: Lights used to meet the requirements of 18.5.5.5 shall be permitted to be listed and labeled to have pulse durations up to 100 milliseconds.

A.18.5.3.2 New research using lights with longer pulse durations shows that the existing tables for indirect signaling [Table 18.5.5.4.1(a) and Table 18.5.5.4.1(b)] are inadequate to assure reliable notification. Until additional work is done and incorporated into this Code, lights used for indirect signaling and having effective intensities specified in Table 18.5.5.4.1(a) or Table 18.5.5.4.1(b) need to be short duration, high intensity to be effective for the specified area of coverage. This limitation does not apply to direct signaling such as that used in corridors in accordance with 18.5.5.5. For
direct signaling in corridors (18.5.5.5), longer pulse appliances (up to 100 ms) (SI?), such as LED lights, have been shown to be effective. Longer pulse durations might also be effective in large volume spaces that use direct signaling, as discussed in A.18.5.4.

The Council, having reviewed the entire record concerning this matter and having considered all the arguments put forth in this appeal, has voted to deny the appeal and issue NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, 2016 Edition as amended.

Kerry M. Bell, Chair, and James E. Golinveaux, Member, recused themselves during the deliberations and vote on the appeal.

**Notice on Short Decisions:** This is a “Short” decision, briefly stating the action on the appeal. A full Final Decision, containing further detail, will be issued in due course, and will automatically be sent to all interested parties as soon as it becomes available. Note that any Petition to the NFPA Board of Directors (see “*NOTE*” in the footer on the first page of this letter) must be filed within 15 days of the date of this Short Decision (see Date of Decision in the subject line). Once the Notice, if any, has been filed, however, the Petition itself, should it be pursued, will not be due until 15 days following issuance of the Final Decision.

Sincerely,

Dawn Michele Bellis
Secretary, NFPA Standards Council

c: D. Berry, S. Everett, L. Fuller, B. Burke, D. Roux
   Members, TC on Notification Appliances for Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems (SIG-NAS)
   Members, CC on Signaling Systems for the Protection of Life and Property (SIG-AAC)
   Members, NFPA Standards Council (AAD-AAA)
   Individuals Providing Appeal Commentary