

## **The End of 3G: Does Your Fire Alarm Communication Dialer Need to be Replaced?**

As cellular technology improves and evolves, older 3G cellular technology has become obsolete. Beginning January 1, 2023, the 3G network in the United States will no longer exist. Therefore, all fire alarm control panels (FACP's) and digital alarm communicator transmitters (DACT's) currently using 3G technology as the primary and/or secondary communications path to central station must be changed, or the system will not function as required NFPA 72. Loss of 3G service will render the current dialer out of service, canceling the ability to automatically summon the fire department for a fire protection system activation. A replacement will be required.

### **What are the requirements when a dialer is replaced?**

Permits are required for the installation, alteration, or replacement of cellular DACT and integral cellular FACP dialers in Fairfax County and the towns of Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna. Any alteration to a fire alarm system, including the method of the fire alarm system monitoring, requires review, approval, and acceptance testing by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

For detailed information about construction permits and permit applications, consult our permit requirements web page at [Fire Marshal Installation Requirements](#).

Specific questions concerning construction permit requirements for fire protection equipment/ systems may be directed to the Fire Protection Systems Branch at **703-246-4821**, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thank you for your attention to this important code compliance issue.

