Fire alarm systems are a critical element of life safety and occupant notification. Most citizens assume that the activation of a fire alarm pull station will automatically notify the Fire Department. Pre-existing manual fire alarm pull stations, previously approved for installation without a monitoring service, must include clear signage instructing occupants to call 911.

Pre-existing manual fire alarms that do not include a monitoring service must include a sign at each pull station that includes the following:

1) Durable sign (all-weather if outdoors) with either white text on a red background or red text on a white background.

2) First line to include not less than ½” tall letters stating “When Alarm Sounds”.

3) Second to include not less than 1” tall letters stating “Call 911”.

The sign will not be required where the manufacture has permanently provided this information on the manual fire alarm box. The sign may still be required if the information on the pull box is not readily visible, worn off, or when deemed inadequate by the Fire Inspector.

Please contact the City of Charleston Fire Department – Fire Marshal Division at (843)724-3429 with any questions or for additional information.