The Codeword is used to clarify provisions of the Harris County Fire Code. The sole intent is to make clear acceptable practice.

**Issue Date:** October 9, 2009  
**Subject:** Fire Alarms in Daycare Facilities  
**Note:** Replaces Codeword of the same name, from April 1, 2007  
**Question:** Are fire alarm systems required in all daycare facilities regardless of occupancy load?  
**Answer:** Yes; The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services require electronic alarm and smoke detection systems approved by the local fire marshal. The AHJ (Authority having Jurisdiction) which is the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office will only approve fire alarm systems that include, but are not limited to, smoke detection, manual pull stations as required, audio/visual notification and monitoring by an approved supervising station, per IFC 2006, 907.15. Smoke detectors will be required in all areas where children are located.

**Special Information:**  
Fire Alarm systems with audio/visual notifications assist persons that are hearing or sight impaired.

Building Official  
Harris County, Texas

Fire Marshal  
Harris County, Texas