



# Orange County Fire Authority Community Risk Reduction INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN 02-26

## **Subject: Maintenance of Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement Systems (ERCES, ERRCS, BDA Systems)**

This bulletin is to inform building owners and property managers that Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement Systems, also known as Emergency Responder Radio Communication Systems (ERRCS) and Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) Systems, that have been installed within buildings are required to be maintained in accordance with the California Fire Code (CFC) and the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) BDA Implementation Guidelines. Operational ERCES/ERRCS/BDA systems are critical to the safety of emergency responders operating within buildings and must be kept in proper working order at all times.

The following California Fire Code (CFC) sections apply to all buildings where an ERCES/ERRCS/BDA system has been installed:

- **CFC Section 510.6 – Maintenance.** The in-building emergency responder communications enhancement system shall be maintained operational at all times in accordance with Sections 510.6.1 through 510.6.4.
- **CFC Section 510.6.1 – Testing and Proof of Compliance.** The owner of the building or owner's authorized agent shall have the in-building emergency responder communications enhancement system inspected and tested annually or where structural changes occur, including additions or remodels that could materially change the original field performance tests.

For buildings constructed under the 2019 edition of the California Building Code to the currently adopted edition:

- **CFC Section 510.4.2.5 – System Monitoring.** The in-building emergency responder communications enhancement system shall be monitored by a listed fire alarm control unit, or where approved by the fire code official, shall sound an audible signal at a constantly attended on-site location.

In addition to the above-referenced fire code sections, the building owner shall also comply with the **Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) BDA Implementation Guideline, Revision 4.5**, dated August 4th, 2025. All applicable requirements outlined within the OCSD guideline must be fully implemented and maintained to ensure compliance. Failure to comply may subject your building to enforcement action.

For additional questions, please call OCFA Community Risk Reduction, Prevention Field Services Section at (714) 573-6254.