



**Denver Fire Department**  
Fire Prevention Division

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## **DENVER FIRE DEPARTMENT HAZARD ALERT** **ELECTRICAL HAZARD IN ELEVATOR CONTROLLER REPLACEMENT**

February 3, 2016

The following informational guidelines are provided for elevator contractors, installers, suppliers and building owners.

Regarding the electrical distribution systems for elevators, in recent weeks we have encountered two situations—a fire and an explosion—related to the replacement of elevator controllers without upgrading the electrical switchgear. Through inspections of numerous properties, we have found that this is a common practice. Although there may be some cases where the switchgear can handle the load of the new controller, we find that in most cases the switchgear needs to be upgraded. In short, the contractor must look beyond the immediate task of replacing the controller and ensure that the upgraded system will function properly.

Any installation, replacement, modification or alteration of elevator controllers and/or drive machines including the installation (wiring) of external elevator transformers, may only be commenced upon approved plan review and issuance of valid permits by the Denver Building and Fire Departments. All existing distribution feeders and overcurrent protection shall be verified for proper rating. City-approved equipment inspection and testing are required before the equipment may be placed in service.

Elevator work shall only be done by contractors and personnel with the appropriate Denver Fire Department and Colorado State licenses.

Electrical work beyond the elevator controller and outside the drive machine enclosure shall only be done by contractors and personnel with the appropriate City and County of Denver license and in compliance with the State Electrical Board rules.

It is the responsibility of contractors and building owners to ensure the proper permits have been issued for the work to be performed.

Work done without the proper permits in place will result in penalties assessed under the administrative provisions of the City and County of Denver's Building and Fire codes.

For additional information on obtaining permits for elevator work, contact 720-913-3514 or 720-913-3472.