

FDNY BELL SIGNALS

Signals in effect when the bell system was placed out of service October 6, 1983

SIGNAL	MEANING	SIGNAL	MEANING
2	Time signal (1200)	9	Preliminary for special units
2-1-Box#	Adaptive response	(A) Ambulances:	Term 1-3
2-2	Second alarm	(B) Searchlights:	Term 21-23
2-2-2	Out of Service	(C) Field Comm:	Term 31
2-2-2-2-1	Adaptive response ended	(D) Mask Svc Unit:	Term 41
2-3	Acknowledgement	(E) Super Pump Sys	Term 51
2-9	Marine company not required	Tender	Term 52
3-BOX#-TERM#	(A) Special Building Box # and Terminal # (B) Repeat signal	Satellite 1	Term 53
		Satellite 2	Term 54
		Satellite 3	Term 55
3-3	Third alarm	(F) Thawing app	Term 61-66
4	Battalion chief	(G) Comm/News Svc	Term 71
4-4	Fourth alarm	(H) Foam Unit	Term 81
4-4-4	In service	(I) Combination fire companies	Term 121-131-151
4-4-4-2-1	Adaptive response started		
4-4-4-4	Return to regular working system	9-2	Malicious false alarm
5	Engine company	9-9	(A) Preliminary signal for Queens (B) Simultaneous call for Queens (C) Notification signal for Queens
5-5	Fifth alarm		
5-7	Only engine & ladder to respond	10	Rescue company
5-5-5-5	Flag to half-staff	11	Telegraph test
6	Marine company	13	(A) Apparatus out of service in quarters or while responding (B) Apparatus out of service during inspections or similar activities (C) Apparatus out of service to extinguish a fire while responding or returning and additional help needed
6-5	Use telephone		
6-5-2	Monitor radio	13-1-13	Attack warning
6-6	(A) Preliminary signal for Man/Bnx (B) Simultaneous call for Man/Bnx (C) Notification Signal for Man/Bnx	13-2-13	Radiation warning
		13-652-2	Manhattan radio inoperative
6-6-6-6	Start 24 hours on/off system	13-652-3	Brooklyn radio inoperative
6-6-6-6-6	Start continuous duty	13-652-4	Queens radio inoperative
7	Ladder company	13-652-5	Bronx & SI radio inoperative
7-5	(A) Call for full first alarm assignment (B) All Hands or 2 & 2 at work if 2 & 2 assigned	13-652-6	City Wide radio inoperative
		14	Relocation of battalion chief
7-7	(A) Preliminary signal for Brooklyn (B) Simultaneous call for Brooklyn (C) Notification signal for Brooklyn	15	Relocation of engine company
		16	Relocation of marine company
8	Squad company	17	Relocation of ladder company
8-8	(A) Preliminary signal for Staten Is (B) Simultaneous call for Staten Is (C) Notification signal for Staten Is	18	Return all units except engine and ladder required
		19	Return all units except unit required
		20	Proceed to box location at reduced speed

Note: 6-5-2 was often written as 65-2, but was transmitted as 6-5-2 or 6-5--2 with a long pause

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