



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Code Interpretation 21-003

Issued: November 29, 2021

Topic

Dedicated Function Sprinkler Monitoring System

OVERVIEW

Code Section(s): CRFC Chapter 2, 903.4, 904.3.5, 907.2, 907.3.1

Edition: 2019

Requested By: John Bennett

Date Received: August 10, 2021

QUESTION

Previous Code Cycles and Code Interpretations have provided a difference between Dedicated Function Sprinkler Monitoring Systems and Fire Alarm System. Does the CFC 2019 still recognize this Differentiation?

ANSWER

Yes

QUESTION

Are Sprinkler Monitoring Systems required by CFC 903.4 to be considered Fire Alarm System; and or are Fire Alarm Control Units/Panels considered Fire Alarm Systems?

ANSWER

No, this is addressed in previous Code Interpretations 18-008 and 10-017.

QUESTION

Are Alternative Automatic Fire-Extinguishing Systems (Ansul Systems) under CFC 904.3.4-5 required to be connected Sprinkler Monitoring Systems?

ANSWER

No, this is addressed in a previous Code Interpretation 18-008. It is required to be monitored if there is a fire alarm system.

QUESTION



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Are Manual Pull Stations required for sprinkler monitoring systems as they are required under CFC 907.2?

ANSWER

No, Exception 1 states the manual fire alarm box is not required for fire alarm control units dedicated to elevator recall control and supervisory service and fire sprinkler monitoring.

QUESTION

Are Duct Smoke Detectors required to be connected to the Sprinkler Monitoring Systems pursuant to CFC 907.3.1?

ANSWER

No, they are a Dedicated Function Fire Alarm Control Unit as defined in NFPA 72.

QUESTION

Are jurisdictions required to have their Municipal Codes amended in order to impose additional requirements to the State Fire Code?

ANSWER

Yes, this is addressed in Code Interpretation 18-008 and as per the Health and Safety Code Section 17958.7.

QUESTION

The authority having jurisdiction has stated that there is no such thing as Dedicated Function Sprinkler Monitoring Systems, and that all Fire Alarm Control Units/Panels are to be considered Fire Alarm Systems based on the definitions in Chapter 2 of the California Fire Code. Is this an accurate interpretation?

ANSWER

A fire alarm control unit by itself is not considered a fire alarm system per NFPA 72. Per NFPA 72, the definition of a fire alarm control unit is that it is a component of the fire alarm control system. Title 19, California Code of Regulations, Section 204(c)(1) states the following:

A fire alarm system means a control unit and a combination of electrically interconnected devices designed and intended to cause an alarm or warning of fire in a building or structure by either manual or automatic activation, or by both, and includes such systems installed throughout any building or portion thereof. Fire alarm systems may include but shall not necessarily be limited to the following components parts.



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- (A) Audio signal devices.
- (B) Visual signal devices.
- (C) Trouble signal devices.
- (D) Annunciators.
- (E) Smoke Detectors.
- (F) Heat Detectors.
- (G) Visual detectors.
- (H) Manual initiating devices.
- (I) Wiring (conductors and cable).

Exception: For the purposes of compliance with Sections 13114, Health and Safety Code, wiring for fire alarm systems need not mandatorily be approved and listed. Wiring shall conform to the provisions required under Title 19, Section 3.01.

QUESTION

Are Fire Alarm Control Units used for Sprinkler Supervisor Service considered Fire Alarm Systems?

ANSWER

No, they are a Dedicated Function Fire Alarm Control Unit as defined in NFPA 72.

QUESTION

Must the Fire Alarm Control Panel be performing 3 tasks (Elevator, Recall, Supervisory Service, & fire sprinkler monitoring) to exclude the Manual Pull Station according to the exception?

ANSWER

No, a manual fire box is not required for fire control panel if it serves any of one the three functions.