



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	02-10-03	Interpretation #	03-017
Topic	Group R-1 Fire Sprinkler Monitoring/Fire Alarm System		
Code Section(s)	§1007.2.9.1.1, §1003.3.2, §1003.3.1, California Fire Code (1998)		
Requested by	Dan Varney Greater Alarm Co 17992 Cowan Irvine, CA 992614		

Please consider the following questions as they relate to an apartment building (Group R, Division 1 occupancy) two stories or less in height that contains 16 or fewer units and is protected by a fire sprinkler system that contains 100 sprinkler heads or more.

- 1. Is a water flow monitoring system with exterior audible and interior unit audible devices required?***

Yes. An approved exterior and interior audible appliance is required per Section 1003.3.2.

- 2. In the example given above, can the exterior sprinkler bell and the interior audible devices be powered by 110v house power and be separate from the monitoring panel?***

Yes. The exterior and interior appliances required by Section 1003.3.2 may be powered by 110v and be separate from the monitoring panel.

3. ***If there are fewer than 100 sprinkler heads, does a 110vac unsupervised exterior audible and 110vac unsupervised, interior unit sounders, switched through the flow switch, meet the code requirements?***

Yes. The situation described above would meet the code requirements.

4. ***In the example above with less than 100 heads, what are the requirements for monitoring, locking, annunciation or notification of the above-ground sprinkler control valves?***

When sprinkler system monitoring is not required by CFC (2001) Section 1003.3.1, then Section 4-14.1.1.3 of NFPA 13 (1996) must be utilized. This section allows the following types of fire sprinkler control valves supervision:

1. Central station, proprietary, or remote station signaling service.
2. Local signaling service at a constantly attended location.
3. Valves locked in the open position.
4. Valves located within fenced enclosures under the control of the owner, sealed in the open position, and inspected weekly.

5. ***Please consider the following when considering my next question: An apartment building (R-1 Occupancy) that is three or more stories in height or contains 16 or more dwelling units. The building is protected by a fire sprinkler system. What is meant by “a separate fire alarm system” in Exception #2 of Section 1007.2.9.1.1 UFC? Would such an apartment building require only a water flow monitoring system with the notification described in Section 1003.3.2 of the UFC?***

Section 1007.2.9.1.1 of the 1997 Uniform Fire Code was amended by the State Fire Marshal. Exception #2 of Section 1007.2.9.1.1 of the 1998 California Fire Code and Exception #2a of Section 310.10 of the 1998 California Building Code (CBC) do not eliminate the fire alarm system requirement. These sections require that a fire alarm system be installed with supervised audible notification appliances throughout (monitored for integrity). These sections do not require that initiating devices be installed throughout the building. However, at least one manual pull station must be provided at a location approved by the AHJ.

Note: *Local ordinances may be more restrictive regarding fire alarm systems and fire sprinkler monitoring. The local AHJ shall be consulted prior to any construction and installation.*