



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	July 29, 2014	Interpretation	14-003
Topic	Stair Pressurization Operations		
Code Section(s)	2013 CBC §909.20.4		
Requested by	Aon Fire Protection Engineering Corporation Ning Wang, Senior Fire Protection Engineer		
Date Received	March 14, 2014		

Question: should stair pressurization systems be operated in the event of a fire only (upon actuation of the fire alarm system), or at both normal (non-fire condition) and fire conditions? In other words, should the stair pressurization system be operational 24 hours a day?

Answer: No. The stair pressurization is activated by fire alarm with smoke detection (CBC 909.20.4.3) unless the rational analysis (CBC 909.4) supports the design of having the stair pressurization 24 hours a day.