



West Metro Fire Protection District

Life Safety Division

Technical Bulletin

Subject:	<i>Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System Exterior Notification Requirements</i>		
Code/Standard:	<i>IFC, all editions</i>	Bulletin No:	2022-002
Bulletin Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Fire Code Interpretation</i>	Effective Date:	<i>9/1/2022</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>West Metro Fire Protection District Policy</i>	Approved By:	<i>K. Brooks</i>

Scope/Purpose:

To set forth requirements for the installation of exterior notification appliances for fire department use when responding to a fire alarm activation.

Requirement(s):

Exterior fire alarm and water flow notification shall be provided for new fire alarm system installations, and as required by the Fire Code Official for renovations and tenant improvement projects, as follows:

- Where a fire alarm system is installed, and there is no sprinkler system:
 - A single exterior horn/strobe shall be installed in the vicinity of the building entry utilized to access the fire alarm panel or a primary entry annunciator panel. This notification appliance shall activate upon an alarm signal initiated by any fire alarm initiating device. When activated, this notification appliance shall be visible from the primary access road or drive. If the fire alarm system is silenced at the fire alarm panel, the outside general alarm horn/strobe shall continue to operate until the fire department verifies that there is no hazard and the fire alarm system is reset.
- Where both a fire alarm system and an automatic fire sprinkler system are installed:
 - An outside horn/strobe that activates upon water flow ONLY shall be installed directly above the FDC. Once activated, this notification appliance shall remain activated until waterflow has stopped.
 - A single exterior horn/strobe shall be installed in the vicinity of the building entry utilized to access the fire alarm panel or a primary entry annunciator panel. This notification appliance shall activate upon an alarm signal initiated by any fire alarm initiating device, including sprinkler system activation. When activated, this notification appliance shall be visible from the primary access road or drive. If the fire alarm system is silenced at the fire alarm panel, the outside general alarm horn/strobe shall continue to operate until the fire department verifies that there is no hazard and the fire alarm system is reset.
 - The horn/strobe that activates upon water flow (water flow alarm) shall be labeled with a permanent all weather sign stating 'WATER FLOW'. This sign shall consist of white letters with a minimum height of 1-inch on a red background and shall be located directly adjacent the water flow alarm. Where both the water flow alarm and the general alarm notification appliances are on the same side of the building, or are likely to be confused with each other, then a sign shall identify both at the discretion of the fire inspector.

Reference(s):

IFC 903.4, 903.4.2 as amended, NFPA 13 Sec 6.8.2

Attachments:

Signage examples



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Sample signage

