

## CHAPTER 9 FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

### SECTION 904.3.5 2015 Edition IFC Interpretation 32-19 ISSUED: 12-20-2019 FL\_15\_32\_19

#### 904.3.5 Monitoring.

Where a building fire alarm system is installed, automatic fire-extinguishing systems shall be monitored by the building fire alarm system in accordance with NFPA 72.

#### REFERENCED SECTION:

#### 907.2 Where required—new buildings and structures.

An *approved* fire alarm system installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 72 shall be provided in new buildings and structures in accordance with Sections 907.2.1 through 907.2.23 and provide occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5, unless other requirements are provided by another section of this code.

Not fewer than one manual fire alarm box shall be provided in an *approved* location to initiate a fire alarm signal for fire alarm systems employing automatic fire detectors or waterflow detection devices. Where other sections of this code allow elimination of fire alarm boxes due to sprinklers, a single fire alarm box shall be installed.

#### Exceptions:

1. The manual fire alarm box is not required for fire alarm systems dedicated to elevator recall control and supervisory service.
2. The manual fire alarm box is not required for Group R-2 occupancies unless required by the *fire code official* to provide a means for fire watch personnel to initiate an alarm during a sprinkler system impairment event. Where provided, the manual fire alarm box shall not be located in an area that is accessible to the public.



**Q:** Section 904.3.5 requires that an alternative fire-extinguishing system be monitored by the building fire alarm system where a building fire alarm system is installed. In a building with an automatic sprinkler system, does Section 904.3.5 require an alternative fire-extinguishing system to be monitored by the automatic sprinkler system even though it is not subject to occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5?

**A:** No. Section 904.3.5 recognizes that a building fire alarm system is not required in all buildings. Automatic fire-extinguishing systems are not required to be electrically supervised in accordance with NFPA 72 unless the building is equipped with a building fire alarm system. Building fire alarm systems, manual fire alarm systems or automatic smoke detection systems, are those systems required by Section 907.2. Building fire alarm systems required by Sections 907.2.1 through 907.2.23 must provide occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5.

While the installation of an automatic sprinkler system requires electrical supervision in accordance with NFPA 72, automatic sprinkler systems do not require occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5 in buildings not required to have a building fire alarm system. The monitoring of sprinkler waterflow and valve supervisory signals for a sprinkler system is not considered a building fire alarm system but rather a dedicated function fire alarm system in accordance with NFPA 72.