This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2018 International Fire Code and is an official interpretation of Section 903.4.1 of the 2018 International Fire Code.

The following shall apply to the actuation of protective devices:
Section 903.4.1 of the 2018 International Fire Code reads as follows: “Alarm, supervisory and trouble signals shall be distinctly different and shall be automatically transmitted to an approved supervising station or, when approved by the code official, shall sound an audible signal at a constantly attended location.” It is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that the supervising station shall be able to distinguish between a water-flow alarm and a general fire alarm.

The following is the Des Moines Fire Prevention Bureau’s policy for the monitoring of sprinkler system alarm signals:

1. Valve monitoring (supervisory), water-flow alarm, and trouble signals shall be distinctly different and shall be automatically transmitted to an approved supervising station or, when approved by the code official, shall sound an audible signal at a constantly attended location.

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:

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City of Des Moines Fire Department
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