This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of Section 8.15.5.1 of the 2016 edition of NFPA 13.

The following shall apply to any sprinklers installed near the bottom of the elevator hoistway:

Section 8.15.5.1 of the 2016 edition of NFPA 13 reads as follows: “Sidewall spray sprinklers shall be installed at the bottom of each elevator hoistway not more than 2 feet above the floor of the pit.” This section does not clearly identify where this sprinkler is to be installed in relation to the elevator doors. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that debris will most likely accumulate in the pit nearest the side of the elevator doors, therefore, the sprinkler required in the bottom of the hoistway should be installed near the side of the pit below the elevator doors. The following is the Des Moines Fire Prevention Bureau’s policy on sidewall sprinklers near the bottom of the elevator hoistway:

1.) The sprinkler should be located nearest the side of the elevator doors.

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

Office of the Fire Protection Engineer
City of Des Moines Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau
2715 Dean Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50317
Office: (515) 237-1316
Fax: (515) 283-4907
Email: firedept@dmgov.org