

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Sprinkler Water Flow Alarm**

**Code:** 2012 Fire Prevention Code

**Date:** September 1, 2011

**Section:** 903.4.2

**Question:**

Is the exterior alarm required by Section 903.4.2 intended to be an evacuation alarm?

**Answer:**

No, the purpose of this exterior alarm is to identify water flow within the sprinkler system, not to evacuate the building. The evacuation alarms are primarily contained in Section 907 of the code as manual or automatic alarms.

It is possible to have a building that is equipped with a sprinkler system without an evacuation alarm.

**Keywords:**

Water motor gong, flow switch, alarm valve, horn