This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2015 International Fire Code and is an official interpretation of Section 703.2 of the 2015 International Fire Code and Sections 4.7.5 of the 2013 edition of NFPA 80.

The following shall apply to the actuation of opening protectives:

Section 703.2 of the International Fire Code reads as follows: Opening protectives shall be maintained in an operative condition in accordance with NFPA 80. NFPA 80, Section 4.7.5 states that detectors or fusible links shall be installed on both sides of the wall, interconnected so that the operation of any single detector or fusible link causes the door to close. According to NFPA 80, Figure A.4.7.5 (a)-A.4.7.5 (i), interconnection of the fusible links is accomplished by penetrating the wall for pipe & chain. It is the opinion of the Fire Marshal and Building Official that penetrating the wall for pipe & chain could, in some situations, conflict with the IBC for fire stopping of through wall penetrations of a fire wall. The following is the Des Moines Fire Prevention Bureau’s policy on the installation of automatic-closing devices on rolling fire doors:

1. Automatic-closing devices shall be installed on both sides of the wall.

2. Fusible link(s) may be used on the side of the wall on which the automatic-closing mechanism is located.

3. Heat detection shall be installed on the other side of the wall. Number and location of heat detectors shall be in accordance with NFPA 72, 17.7.5.6.5 & 17.7.5.6.2. Detectors for the release of fire doors shall be permitted to be part of an overall system, in accordance with NFPA 80, 4.7.2. While it is not explicitly required, it is recommended that heat detectors installed be used exclusively for door release and not as "system detectors".

4. Rolling fire doors classified by the IBC as “smoke doors” shall be released by smoke detectors as specified in NFPA 72, 17.7.5.6.1.

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