This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of Section 6.9 of the 2013 edition of NFPA 13 and Section 903.4.2 of the 2015 edition of the IFC.

The following shall apply to the records of all system inspection, tests and maintenance for fire protection systems:

Section 6.9.1 of the 2013 edition of NFPA 13 reads as follows: “Waterflow alarm devices shall be listed for the service and so constructed and installed that any flow of water from a sprinkler system equal to or greater than that from a single automatic sprinkler of the smallest orifice size installed on the system will result in an audible alarm on the premises within 5 minutes after such flow begins and until such flow stops.” It is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that this device should be a weather-proof horn-strobe or a water motor gong. The following is the Des Moines Fire Prevention Bureau's policy on how these devices shall be installed and operate:

1.) If using a water motor-gong, adhere to the guidelines as outlined in NFPA 13.
2.) If using a weather-proof horn-strobe, the device shall be installed on a separate Notification Appliance Circuit (NAC) and shall be included in any battery and voltage drop calculations. This device shall only operate on active water flow from the sprinkler system and shall not be able to be silenced. This device shall only de-activate after the flow of water stops.

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

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