This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 1009.8 of the IBC which is adopted by the City of Des Moines and is an official interpretation that section.

1009.8 Two-Way Communication.
A two-way communication system complying with Sections 1009.8.1 and 1009.8.2 shall be provided at the landing and serving each elevator or bank of elevators on each accessible floor that is one or more stories above or below the level of exit discharge...

... 1009.8.1 System Requirements.
Two-way communication systems shall provide communications between each required location and the fire command center or a central control point location approved by the fire department. Where the central control point is not a constantly attended location, a two-way communication system shall have a timed automatic telephone dial-out capability to a monitoring location or 911. The two-way communication system shall include both audible and visible signals.

It is the position of the Fire Prevention Bureau, consistent with the code commentary for this section, that the intent of this requirement is for two-way communication to be provided from any of the required locations. Therefore, two-way communication must be provided between the required location and the approved location. More specifically, if the “call” is directed to a physical location in the building and forwarded to monitoring two-way communication must be provided to/at both the constantly attended location and the monitoring station or 9-1-1.

Also, generally acceptable locations, when a fire command center is not required, are the front desk, if constantly attended, or the annunciator panel. In all cases, but a constantly attended desk such as a nurses station the two-way communication systems are required to dial out to monitoring or 9-1-1.

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

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City of Des Moines Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau
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