

SCFA – Training Bulletin 24-02

Automatic Fire Alarm Systems

Fire alarm systems may be analog/zone type or digital/addressable type.

Analog/zone type typically have multiple devices such as smoke detectors, heat detectors and pull stations on each zone. Activated zone(s) is displayed, but individual devices are not identified. The zone must be checked for an activated device. A zone list at the fire alarm control panel (FACP) is needed to identify zone location (ie. tenant space or area of building). A zone may include only one device such as a sprinkler system water flow switch or a kitchen fixed extinguishing system.

Digital/addressable system will display a specific device(s). Type and location are programmed into the FACP and will display on the screen.

Activation of the fire alarm causes HVAC fans to shut down to prevent spread of smoke throughout the space. Reset of the HVAC fans may be done when FACP is reset, or there may be a separate reset button near the panel that must also be pressed.

When looking for activated devices, check smoke detectors for illuminated steady red LED. Check heat detectors for missing heat collection disks that fall off in presence of heat or if struck and damaged. Check pull stations for activation or damage. Addressable heat detectors may look very similar to smoke detectors and have LEDs to indicate when activated.

An activated fire alarm due to water flow can't be silenced or reset until water flow switch is no longer activated.

An activated fire alarm due to a kitchen fixed extinguishing system activation can't be reset until the fixed extinguishing system is serviced by a technician.



Fire Dept. Actions

- Conduct a size-up upon arrival and check FACP for alarm information. Force entry or use key lock box to access building as necessary. If building rep is responding, what is their ETA?
- If smoke is present, search for fire. Initiate fire attack as necessary. Supply FDC if sprinklered building.
- If no smoke is present, search for activated or damaged device. Water leak into detector?
- Reset FACP when cause has been determined and it is appropriate to do so. Press separate fan reset/restart button if equipped.
- Inform building rep of situation- does alarm need repair? Is there a roof leak or other problem causing activation?

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