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TO: Members of the Construction Code Commission
FROM: Todd Cordill, NCARB, Chief, Plan Review Division 
SUBJECT: Request for Interpretation by Daniel G. Decker
2006 Michigan Building Code (MBC)
Code Sections 901.6, 901.6.1, 907.2, 907.9

QUESTIONS:

- 1) In a building occupancy not required to have a fire alarm system per MBC, Section 907.2, is occupant notification required when providing supervisory service for an automatic sprinkler system in compliance with MBC Sections 901.6 and 901.6.1?
- 2) Does the code require alarm notification appliances in accordance with MBC, Section 907.9 to be provided if MBC, Section 907.2 does not require the occupancy in question to have a fire alarm system?

ANSWERS:

- 1) No 2) No

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DISCUSSION:

MBC, Section 901.6 states that fire protection systems shall be monitored by an approved supervising station in accordance with NFPA 72. Per MBC, Section 902 and NFPA 72 a "supervising station" is defined as a facility that receives signals at which personnel are in attendance at all times to respond to these signals. "Supervisory service" is defined in MBC, Section 902 as the service required to monitor performance of guard tours and the operative condition of fixed suppression systems or other systems for the protection of life and property. MBC, Section 903.4.2 states, in part:

Approved audible devices shall be connected to every automatic sprinkler system. Such water-flow alarm devices shall be activated by water flow equivalent to the flow of a single sprinkler of the smallest orifice size installed in the system. Alarm devices shall be provided on the exterior of the building in an approved location.

Unless a building has a complete fire alarm system (in compliance with MBC, Section 907), the only audible alarm device required in a building that is protected by an automatic sprinkler system is an audible water-flow alarm device provided on the exterior of the building.