

## CUSTOMER TRAINING SERIES

# Fire Department Connection



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### POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The intent of a fire alarm system and a releasing system are different.
- FSC-B contractors can install the releasing panel, pull stations, detectors, appliances and circuits related to a Special Hazard Suppression System.
- A fire alarm system is monitored and provides for emergency forces and/or occupant notification.
- Releasing systems are not required to perform any of these functions.

#### For Information Contact:

Fire Construction Services

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## Fire Suppression B Alarm Work

Learning Objective: You will be able to distinguish what alarm work is authorized under the Fire Suppression 'B' Contractor License

To what extent is fire alarm work authorized under the Fire Suppression 'B' (FSC-B) license?

The 2011 Pikes Peak Regional Building Code states that the FSC-B licensed contractor is authorized to provide the full range of services for special hazard suppression systems (SHSS) including their necessary control, alarm and detection components. So, what does that mean?

SHSS's, by their very nature, require actuation by a detection system. Unlike a basic fire sprinkler system, which can detect fire (the sprinkler itself) and discharge water all on its own (the pipes are filled with water), an SHSS needs a detection device to notify the control unit, aka releasing panel, which signals the solenoid to go ahead and release the suppression agent. SHSS's require the use of manual and automatic detection, where a basic fire sprinkler system does not. So, what makes a fire alarm and a releasing system different? The difference is in the intent of the systems.

A fire alarm system consists of components and circuits, arranged to *monitor* and announce



the status of an initiating device, and to initiate the appropriate response. A fire alarm system also provides for the *notification* of emergency forces or occupants or both, and serves the general fire alarm needs for a building.

A SHSS releasing system is a dedicated function system, which provides control of a fire suppression system and is considered part of the suppression system. These systems are *not* required to be monitored by a supervising station and are *not* required to provide for emergency forces or occupant notification. If a building fire alarm system is already provided, they

### Special Hazard Suppression Systems rely on detection and control system.

are required to monitor the releasing system.

Therefore, a FSC-B licensed contractor can install the releasing panel, pull stations, detectors, notification appliances and circuits related to the SHSS. They cannot make connection to a building fire alarm system. The connection to the building fire alarm system or the installation of said system requires a Fire Alarm Contractor license.

