



When Alarm Bells Ring, Call 911

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Citizens should always call 911 whenever fire alarm bells ring. A common misconception is that fire departments are automatically notified when fire alarms ring in a home, condominium or apartment building.

At 6 a.m. this morning, residents of a four-storey Victoria condominium containing 44 suites, stood outside for 20 minutes before someone called 911. The residents believed that because alarm bells went off in their building, the Victoria Fire Department would automatically be contacted. This is not the case.

Even if a building is monitored by an alarm company, fire departments ask that the public call 911, inform them of their location and that fire alarm bells are ringing, and evacuate the premises.

Fortunately, there was no fire in this instance- a sprinkler head had malfunctioned setting off the fire alarm but had there been a fire, the fire department would not have known for 20 minutes.

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For More Information:

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