

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-661-5880**

Water Heater Relief Valve Discharge

Code: 2012 Plumbing Code

Date: September 1, 2011

Section: 504.7.2

Question:

May a water heater pan drain and/or the discharge from a water heater relief valve terminate into a crawl space?

Answer:

No, Section 504.7.2 states the relief valve shall discharge full size to a safe place of disposal such as within 6 inches of the ground surface outside the building, or an indirect waste receptor. The 1996 Plumbing Code was the last code which allowed the discharge into the crawl space.

Code Reference:

504.7.2 Pan drain termination. The pan drain shall extend full-size and terminate over suitable located indirect waste receptor or floor drain or extend to the exterior of the building and terminate not less than 6 inches and not more than 24 inches above the adjacent ground surface.