



MOBILE FIRE - RESCUE DEPARTMENT FIRE CODE ADMINISTRATION

Fire Watch Policy

Purpose:

To provide fire watch requirements for an owner or responsible party when adequate egress is not available, when demolition of a building with hazardous conditions exists, or when a fire alarm or sprinkler system are in disrepair or nonfunctional.

Requirements:

Conduct periodic patrols of the entire facility. Patrol the facility every 15 minutes if the facility has people sleeping, is an institutional facility or an occupied assembly facility. Facilities not meeting the previous conditions shall be patrolled every 30 minutes.

Duties:

- Fire watch personnel shall have access to one approved means of communication;
- Know the exact address of the property, and how to report a fire or other emergency condition by calling 9-1-1.
- Fire watch personnel shall be familiar with the buildings and property and have an accepted written plan for patrolling the property.
- Fire watch personnel shall be trained in the use of fire extinguishers shall have access to all facility fire extinguishers and know their location.
- Fire watch personnel shall have knowledge of and be trained in the facility's evacuation plan in the event of a fire. They shall be able to communicate with non-English speaking residents well enough to give an evacuation order.
- Fire watch personnel shall not be permitted, while on duty, to perform any other duties.
- Fire watch personnel shall not be impaired and shall remain awake and alert at all times.
- Fire watch personnel shall keep a log of fire watch related activities. The log shall include; address of the facility, time of each patrol, name of the fire watch person, notes for other related activities performed.

Responsible Person: _____ Signature: _____

Fire Code Official: _____ Signature: _____

Issue Date: ____ / ____ /20 ____

Fire Watch: IFC References

202. Definition. **Fire Watch.** A temporary measure intended to ensure continuous and systematic surveillance of a building or portion thereof by one or more qualified individuals for the purposes of identifying and controlling fire hazards, detecting early signs of unwanted fire, raising an alarm of fire and notifying the fire department.

901 **Systems out of Service.** Where a required fire protection system is out of service, the fire department and the fire code official shall be notified immediately and, where required by the fire code official, the building shall either be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire protection system has been returned to service.

Where utilized, fire watches shall be provided with at least one approved means for notification of the fire department and their only duty shall be to perform constant patrols of the protected premises and keep watch for fires.

1404 **Fire Watch.** When required by the fire code official for building demolition that is hazardous in nature, qualified personnel shall be provided to serve as an on-site fire watch. Fire watch personnel shall be provided with at least one approved means for notification of the fire department and their sole duty shall be to perform constant patrols and watch for the occurrence of fire.

2604 **When Required.** A fire watch shall be provided during hot work activities and shall continue for a minimum of 30 minutes after the conclusion of the work. The fire code official, or the responsible manager under a hot work program, is authorized to extend the fire watch based on the hazards or work being performed. Exception: Where the hot work area has no fire hazards or combustible exposures.

- 2604. Location. The fire watch shall include the entire hot work area. Hot work conducted in areas with vertical or horizontal fire exposures that are not observable by a single individual shall have additional personnel assigned to fire watches to ensure that exposed areas are monitored.
- 2604. Duties. Individuals designated to fire watch duty shall have fire-extinguishing equipment readily available and shall be trained in the use of such equipment. Individuals assigned to fire watch duty shall be responsible for extinguishing spot fires and communicating an alarm.
- 2604. Fire training. The individuals responsible for performing the hot work and individuals responsible for providing the fire watch shall be trained in the use of portable fire extinguishers.
- 2604. Fire hoses. Where hose-lines are required, they shall be connected, charged and ready for operation.
- 2604. Fire extinguisher. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 and with a minimum 2-A: 20 B:C rating shall be readily accessible within 30 feet of the location where hot work is performed.