

# FIRE WATCH

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**NFPA 101, 2012 edition** and **NFPA 25, 2011 edition** contain provisions dealing with situations, preplanned or otherwise, in which a required fire protection system (e.g. fire alarm or fire sprinkler system) is out of service. Under such circumstances, both codes specify that either the building be evacuated or an approved fire watch be provided. When a required fire protection system is out of service, valuable early warning and fire suppression capabilities are severely compromised. A properly trained fire watch, coupled with an extra vigilant staff, can make a significant difference in determining whether or not a facility can continue to be occupied during such impairment.

## *Documentation:*

A log should be kept of each round of patrol, identifying who conducted the fire watch, the date/time, and situations encountered.

A fire watch should at least involve some special action beyond normal staffing, such as assigning an additional security to walk the areas affected. Such individuals should be specially trained in fire prevention and in occupant and fire department notification techniques, and they should understand the particular fire safety situation for public education purposes.

## **NFPA 101 (2012 edition) Chapter 9.6**

### *Fire Alarm System:*

Where a required fire alarm system is out of service for **more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period**, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified, and the building shall be evacuated, or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all parties left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire alarm system has been returned to service.

## **NFPA 25 (2011 edition) Chapter 15.5**

### *Fire Sprinkler System:*

Where a required fire sprinkler system is out of service for **more than 10 hours in a 24-hour period**, the impairment coordinator shall arrange for one of the following:

Evacuation of the building or portion of the building affected by the system out of service

An approved fire watch

Establishment of a temporary water supply

Establishment and implementation of an approved program to eliminate potential ignition sources and limit the amount of fuel available to the fire

The fire department shall be notified.

The insurance carrier, alarm company, property owner or designated representative.

The authority having jurisdiction shall be notified.

\*Bureau of Facility Standards: (208) 334-6626 Option 3

### ***Restoring Systems to Service:***

When all impaired equipment is restored to normal working order, the impairment coordinator shall verify that the following procedures have been implemented:

- (1) Any necessary inspections and tests have been conducted to verify that affected systems are operational. The appropriate chapter of this standard shall be consulted for guidance on the type of inspection and test required.
- (2) Supervisors have been advised that protection is restored.
- (3) The fire department has been advised that protection is restored.
- (4) The property owner or designated representative, insurance carrier, Alarm Company, and other authorities having jurisdiction have been advised that protection is restored.
- (5) The impairment tag has been removed

## **Rules for Residential Care or Assisted Living Facilities in Idaho**

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### **IDAPA 16.03.22.415.06**

**Fire Watch--** The facility must institute a fire watch during any time the fire alarm, smoke detection, or sprinkler system is inoperable **for greater than four (4) hours.**

# Fire Watch Log

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_ Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

System Out of Service Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Repaired & Tested \_\_\_\_\_

Notifications: Fire Dept \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Facility Standards \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Patrol Name	Time began	Time finished	Problems	Initials

(Add more sheets, if necessary, to account for all times fire watch is in place.)