

FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Fire Prevention Bureau
100 Voorhis Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33932
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Fire Watch Procedure-302

(Revised-06/2013)

Purpose

When a fire protection system is out of service for more than four hours in a (24) hour period, the Authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) shall be permitted to require the building to be evacuated or an approved fire watch to be provided. In cases of a failure of a fire protection system, or an excessive number of accidental activations, the AHJ shall be permitted to require an approved Fire Watch until the system is repaired

FFPC: NFPA 1: Chapter 13: Subsections: 13.1.9 and 13.1.10

Scope

This policy shall govern all buildings protected by fire protection equipment, excluding one and two family homes *FS 553.79 (12)*.

What is Fire Watch?

Is a dedicated person or persons assigned the specific purpose of notifying the fire department, the building occupants, or both of an emergency; preventing fire from occurring; extinguishing small fires; or protecting the public from fire and life safety dangers (*FFPC: NFPA 1: Chapter 3: Subsection 3.3.114*).

Owner/Fire Protection Contractor Responsibilities

- Upon notification of fire protection system impairment, the owner or responsible party, or the Fire Protection Contractor shall notify the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District in all situation when a fire protection system will be out of service for more than four hours in a (24) hour period.
- Fire Watch reporting during business hour contacts number shall be (239) 590-4206

- After Normal Business hours contact the on duty Shift Commander at (239) 707-1154

Fire Watch Duties

- Have a means of communication for Fire Department notification
- Conduct periodic patrol of the interior and exterior of the entire facility
- Maintains a count of current occupancy of the structure under fire watch
- Establishes an evacuation location for building occupants in case of an emergency
- Maintain Fire Watch Log
- Have knowledge of the location and use of fire extinguishers
- Individuals assigned fire watch shall have no other duties assigned, and will not engage in firefighting above the level of an ordinary citizen.

Actions in case of fire or odor of smoke

- Immediately contact 9-1-1
- Notify occupants of the facility for the need of evacuation, utilizing sirens or alerting system of alarm system should those system be functional
- Discharge a fire extinguishers if able to do so safely on the fire area and then evacuate
- Conducts an occupancy count of evacuated building residents to confirm full building evacuation, if there is found to be individuals who have not evacuated, this information is relayed to the on scene Incident commander
- Meet and identify one's self to on scene incident commander to relay information pertinent to area of fire, and potential victims or residents who are unable to evacuate

Frequency of Inspections

Fire Watch personnel shall patrol the entire facility every (15) minutes in the following situations:

- The facility has people sleeping
- The facility is an educational facility or place of worship
- The facility is an occupied assembly occupancy

All other structures who do not meet the criteria for (15) minute patrol intervals shall be patrolled every (30) minutes

Record Keeping

A Fire Watch Log must be maintained at the facility for the duration of fire watch. The log will be updated and kept current. The log will show the following:

- Current occupancy count of structure under fire watch
- The address of facility
- Times that patrol has occurred
- Name of persons conducting fire watch
- Record of any communications with the Fire Department or monitoring company
- Fire Watch log must be delivered to the Fire Prevention Bureau daily via **EMAIL** at **prevention@fmbfire.org** by **0900**

Cancellation of Fire Watch

- It is the owners or responsible party's duty to report that fire protection systems have been restored.
- The owner or responsible party must notify the Fire Prevention Bureau upon restoration of service, and the Fire Prevention Bureau, may elect to conduct system functionality tests to ensure operability prior to cancelling Fire Watch
- If repairs or completed after normal business hours, or on the weekends and holidays, contact the on-duty Shift Commander at (239) 707-1154 for notification. Please provide Full name of occupancy, person requesting to cancel fire watch, contact number, and E-Mail