



Brevard County Fire Rescue



Fire Prevention Bureau

Information Bulletin – FP1

FIRE WATCH

This information is provided to clarify the requirements for a fire watch. A fire watch is the action of an on-site person, whose sole duty is to watch for the occurrence of a fire.

Fire Watch Requirements – Fire Watch Duties

If a fire protection systems fails, or if there are an excessive number of accidental activations or nuisance alarms, a building owner (or their representative) may be required by the Fire Department to provide a fire watch until the system is repaired. Personnel to conduct the fire watch are determined by the building owner. (**Note:** A professional security company is not required.) A fire watch is also required whenever fire protection systems are in a trouble or a supervisory mode for more than eight (8) hours. A nuisance alarm is defined as “any alarm caused by mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, lack of proper maintenance or any alarm activated by a cause that cannot be determined.” (99NFPA 72 1-4)

Owner Responsibilities

- a) Establish, instruct and maintain fire watch personnel
- b) Notify the monitoring company
- c) Notify the Brevard County Fire Marshal’s office that the system is not working and again when it has been repaired. Call the Fire Prevention Division at 321-637-5660, or the Brevard County Fire Dispatch at 321-633-1774.
- d) Contact the repair company to fix the fire protection system(s)
- e) If a notice of Violation has been written, contact the Brevard County Fire Department when the system has been repaired. The number will be on the notice of violation. The Brevard County Fire Department may be reached during normal business hours.

Fire Watch Duties

Personnel serving as a fire watch have the following duties:

- a) Conduct periodic patrols of the entire facility as specified
- b) Identify any fire, life or property hazards
- c) Notify the Brevard County Fire Department if a fire is discovered (Call 911 with the exact address and type of emergency)

Fire Watch Duties (con't)

- d) Notify occupants of the facility of the need to evacuate. If the sirens or public address function of the alarm system are still functional, use them to assist with evacuation of the building.
- e) Determine at least one means of direct communication with the Fire Department. A telephone is acceptable.
- f) Maintain a log of the fire watch activities
- g) Have knowledge of the location and use of fire protection equipment, such as fire extinguishers
- h) Fire watch personnel cannot have other duties other than their assigned fire watch, however, the Fire Department may designate other duties

NOTE: The fire watch designee will not perform fire fighting duties beyond the scope of the ordinary citizen.

Frequency of Inspections

Fire watch personnel should patrol the entire facility every 15 minutes in the following situations:

- a) The facility has people sleeping
- b) The facility is an institutional occupancy
- c) The facility is an occupied assembly occupancy. Facilities that do not meet the requirements for a 15 minute patrol frequency should have a fire watch patrol every 30 minutes.

Record Keeping

A fire watch log should be maintained at the facility. The log must be available to the Brevard County Fire at all times during the fire watch. The log should show the following:

- a) Address of the facility
- b) Times that the patrol has completed each tour of the facility
- c) Name of the person conducting the fire watch
- d) Record of communication(s) to the Fire Department and monitoring company
- e) Record of other information as directed by Fire Department personnel

Cancellation of Fire Watch

It is the owner's responsibility to cancel the fire watch once the fire protection system has been fully restored. Once the fire watch has been cancelled, the owner or representative must notify the monitoring company, Brevard County Fire Rescue @ 321-637-5660 and/or Brevard County Fire Dispatch @ 321-633-1774.

References

Florida Fire Prevention Code

Building Code

NFPA 72, 1999 Ed.

NFPA 1, 2000 Ed.

