



FIRE Prevention



Fire Watch Procedure

Lower Valley Fire Protection District-168 North Mesa-Fruita CO-81521-PH- 970-858-3133

2018 International Fire Code Section 901.7 2012 states:

“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 be either evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shut down until the fire protection system has been returned to service.”

What should happen when a required fire protection system is out of service?

In all cases the following will occur per the 2018 International Fire Code:

1. The building owner shall assign an impairment coordinator to comply with the requirements of this section. In the absence of a specific designee, the owner shall be considered the impairment coordinator.
2. A tag shall be used to indicate that a system, or portion thereof, has been removed from service.
3. The tag shall be posted at each fire department connection, system control valve, fire alarm control unit, fire alarm annunciator and fire command center, indicating which system, or part thereof, has been removed from service.
4. **The fire department and the fire code official shall be notified immediately when the required fire protection system has been returned to service.**

When is a Fire Watch required by Lower Valley Fire Department?

A Fire Watch should be provided at all facilities where a required fire sprinkler or fire alarm system is out of service (but is not mandatory unless the fire code official specifically mandates the Fire Watch).

A Fire Watch shall be initiated when a required fire sprinkler or fire alarm system is out of service and one of the following occurs at the facility:

1. The facility has people sleeping there such as an apartment complex, hotel, group home or assisted living center.
2. Location is an occupied assembly facility such as a church, theatre, convention center or sports arena.
3. In other occupancies on a case-by-case basis as determined by the fire code official.

What do you need to do if a Fire Watch is required?

1. Conduct periodic patrols of the entire facility. Patrol the entire area every 15 minutes if the facility has people sleeping, is an institutional setting or an occupied assembly. Facilities not meeting the previous conditions shall be patrolled every 30 minutes.
2. 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
3. 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.
4. Fire Watch personnel shall not be permitted, while on duty, to perform any other duties.
5. Fire Watch personnel shall not be impaired and shall remain awake and alert at all times.