References (s): 2012 ed. IFC, Section 901.7; 2012 ed. NFPA 101, Sections 9.6.1.6 & 9.7.5

FIRE FACT 085 – FIRE WATCH

A fire watch is a short-term, emergency measure intended to provide an acceptable level of life safety in a building that has an impaired fire safety system. *A fire watch is a compensatory measure only.* It is intended to allow continued occupancy of a building or facility that may not be safe for building occupants during the time period required for implementing appropriate changes or repairs. The purpose of the fire watch is to check ALL areas of the building on a regular basis for fire/life safety emergencies and then to alert the facility occupants to take appropriate action as early as possible.

Different occupancies have different levels of risk determined by the relative vulnerability of the occupants. Each facility shall establish and maintain a written fire watch policy.

When Required

An informal fire watch should be implemented IMMEDIATELY when certain conditions are discovered either by the facility or by other authorities. Examples of when an informal fire watch may be required by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) include:

*Outage or significant impairment of the fire alarm signaling system.
*Outage or significant impairment of the automatic fire suppression system.
*Outage or significant impairment of the facility water supply.
*Impairment of the facility's exiting system NOT significant enough to warrant evacuation and shutdown of the facility.

Informal Fire Watch Procedures

*Notify ALL staff and occupants (if appropriate) immediately.

*Informal fire watch shall be maintained during the entire period of facility occupancy

*Person(s) assigned to the fire watch **SHALL HAVE NO OTHER DUTIES.**

*Informal Fire Watch plans include notification and communication procedures. Portable radios and cellular phones may be used to send an alarm to occupants and emergency response forces.

*The Fire Watch shall include all areas of the facilities which are affected by the impairment. Special attention shall be paid to storage areas, janitor closets, attics, utility spaces, and other normally unoccupied areas.

*All areas are to be checked **at least hourly**. More frequent checks may be mandated if required.

If the above conditions are expected to exist for over 4 hours (fire alarm), 10 hours (sprinkler system), or more than 4 hours in a 24 hour period for other fire protection/life safety, a formal Fire Watch must be initiated.

Formal Fire Watch Procedures

*Notify ALL staff and occupants (if appropriate) immediately.

*Notify the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) of the Fire Watch condition. The AHJ for all healthcare occupancies in the state of Kansas is the Office of the State Fire Marshal and can be reached at (785) 296-3401. Schools, colleges, and correctional facilities are also required to notify OSFM of fire watch conditions. The aforementioned occupancies must also notify their local jurisdictions of the Fire Watch condition.

*Fire watch shall be maintained during entire period of facility occupancy.

*Person(s) assigned to the Fire Watch **SHALL HAVE NO OTHER DUTIES.**

*Informal Fire Watch plans include notification and communication procedures. Portable radios and cellular phones may be used to send an alarm to occupants and emergency response forces.

*Fire Watch shall include ALL AREAS of the facility. Special attention shall be paid to storage areas, janitor closets, attics, utility spaces, and other normally unoccupied areas.

*Fire Watch rounds shall be continous. However, all areas are to be checked **at least hourly.**

*Healthcare facilities, schools, colleges, and detention facilities must send a log of the Fire Watch round at the end of each shift until the situation is corrected. This is preferably done via facsimile. The OSFM fax number is (785) 296-0151

Remember, Fire Watches are compensatory measures only and can not be used in lieu of compliance with the Kansas Fire Prevention Code.

Office of the State Fire Marshal – Fire Prevention Division

Fire Watch Log

Facility Name: Address:

Date: Time Begin: Time End:

Reason: Designated Person :

RESPONSIBILITIES: The responsibilities of firewatch personnel include: performing constant patrols of the premises to keep watch for fires, report all fires to the 911 Dispatch Center, maintain a means of communication with the 911 Dispatch Center, record actions during firewatch.

Area	0100	0200	0300	0400	0500	0600	0700	0800	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100	2200	2300	2400

INITIAL THE TIME AND LOCATION BEING OBSERVED
AT THE END OF EACH DAY FAX THIS TO THE OSFM AT 785-296-0151
THANK YOU