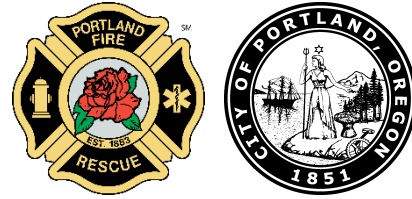


PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE

April 29, 2018



FIR 1.04 - FIRE WATCH

I. SCOPE

- A. This policy is established July 20, 1994.
- B. The purpose is to provide guidance in identifying circumstances where a fire watch should be required.
- C. This policy applies to all structures where Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) has authority.
- D. It is the responsibility of PF&R when inspecting or responding to an alarm and finding an imminently dangerous condition such as a required fire protection system that is inoperative or indicating a “trouble” condition, to require the owner to restore the system or eliminate other dangerous conditions. If the system cannot be restored or other conditions abated before the PF&R representative is ready to leave the premises, the Officer/Inspector/Investigator should require an equal degree of safety be provided for the occupancy, or require and approve a fire watch plan and provider, or determine if a fire watch is necessary.
- E. This policy is to be viewed as a guideline and in no way restricts the latitude of an Officer/Inspector/Investigator who may discover other imminently dangerous conditions requiring a fire watch.

Examples deemed to be imminently dangerous:

- 1. A Fire Alarm system in an alarm or trouble condition, or not functional in residential, institutional, or assembly occupancies;
- 2. Hazardous material spills or other situations presenting a hazard to life or property;
- 3. Sprinkler systems that are out of order in residential, institutional, or assembly occupancies; or in facilities that present a major fire-fighting challenge.

II. SPECIFIC

- A. References
 - 1. Portland City Code (PCC) Title 31.20.070 provides authority to require and, when necessary, provide fire watch patrols in situations that are deemed to be imminently dangerous.

III. GUIDANCE

- A. Where fire protection systems have been compromised, the owner must attempt to reset any alarm system or determine the reason for the sprinkler system being inoperable.
- B. When systems cannot be reset, or imminently dangerous conditions are not fully abated and the building is occupied by people who may not be awake, alert or able to evacuate quickly, a fire watch should be required.
- C. If determined a fire watch is required.
 - 1. A notice of violation will be issued with patrol instructions. Generally, **30-minute** patrols will be adequate; more frequent patrols may be required if there is a high-life hazard.
 - 2. A record of the patrols shall be kept by the patrolling parties.
 - 3. An Officer/Inspector/Investigator may request to see the log during any visit to the site.
- E. The Officer/Inspector/Investigator may allow the owner to provide the fire watch with their own staff, an agent, or by a licensed, bonded security guard. Should the owner fail to provide the fire watch, PF&R may contract with a licensed, bonded security company to provide such service.
- F. If PF&R must hire a security company to provide fire watch, any associated costs will be the responsibility of the building owner.



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