



Fire Watch Standard

Standard

2018 International Fire Code, Section 109.7
Richland Municipal Code (RMC), Title
20.02.010

Practice

The purpose of this standard is to clarify the requirements for a Fire Watch. A Fire Watch is a temporary measure intended to ensure continuous and systematic surveillance of a building or portion thereof by one or more qualified individuals for the purpose of identifying and controlling fire hazards, detecting early signs of unwanted fire, raising an alarm of fire and notifying the department. (2018 International Fire Code)

- A fire watch is required when a fire protection system has failed, a fire has recently occurred and has been extinguished or any other reason deemed necessary by the Fire Marshal.
- Fire Watch is the responsibility of the building owner. Personnel performing the duties of Fire Watch shall keep diligent watch for fires, obstructions to the means of egress and other hazards.
- The Fire Watch shall be conducted every hour and shall be the sole responsibility of the person performing the watch.
- Personnel assigned to Fire Watch shall take prompt measures for remediation and extinguishment of fires that occur. In the case of fire or smoke, fire watch personnel shall first notify the Fire Department through the 911 system, then notify the occupants of the need to evacuate. Fire Watch personnel shall not perform firefighting duties beyond the scope of an ordinary citizen or their level of training.
- Fire Watch personnel shall be at least 18 years of age, ambulatory, have knowledge of the premises and have the means to directly contact the Fire Department through the 911 system.
- Fire Watch personnel shall maintain a log of all fire watch activates.

- In facilities where people may be sleeping, in assembly, educational and institutional occupancies, where alcohol is served, or where the Fire Marshal deems necessary, the fire watch will be performed every 30 minutes.
- The Fire Watch Log shall be maintained at the facility and shall be provided to Fire Marshal's Office upon request. The log will include the address of the facility, the name of the personnel performing the fire watch, contact information for the building responsible and times that each fire watch patrol is completed.

Guide

Modifications of this standard may be made with the approval of the Chief or designee.