

FIRE WATCH REQUIREMENTS

The Largo Fire Rescue Division of Life Safety shall be notified when any fire protection system is out of service and on restoration of service. (F C 1:13.1.8)

A fire watch shall be established anytime either a fire alarm and/or fire sprinkler system is impaired for more than four (4) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period, while the building is occupied, until the fire protection systems are restored. (FFPC 1:1 .1.9)

A fire watch shall also be established in the event of either a failure of a fire protection system or an excessive number of accidental activations as occurred. (FFPC 1:13.1.10)

The owner, agent, or lessee of the affected location shall assign one or more qualified persons, as required and approved, to be on duty. The building owner or business representative is responsible for the cost of standby personnel assigned to fire watch. Qualified persons include building owners/managers, security personnel, or business employees. Several people may need to be assigned to fire watch depending on occupancy. Standby fire watch personnel should be readily identifiable and be available during all periods of fire watch.

- The sole responsibility of personnel assigned to fire watch is to keep diligent watch for fires.
- The fire watch must remain in place while the building is occupied or until the fire alarm system and/or fire sprinkler system is returned to normal service.
- The personnel assigned the fire watch should have a plan in place to alert occupants in the event of a fire. This may require more than one person or the use of a public address system.
- The personnel assigned to the fire watch detail shall be familiar with emergency evacuation procedures for the areas affected.
- The personnel assigned to the fire watch shall have a way to contact the fire department or emergency services.

Failure to comply with a required fire watch may result in either a fire watch being put in place at the owner's expense or a total evacuation of the premises by order of the Fire Marshal.

When the system is repaired and a fire watch is no longer needed, the owner or owner's designee shall notify the **Largo Fire Rescue Division of Community Risk Reduction at (727) 587-6714 or fd_crr@largo.com**.

