





## Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue Fire Prevention & Life Safety Division

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**NFPA 1, NFPA 101, NFPA 13, NFPA 25 and NFPA 72** all have provisions for a fire alarm system or fire sprinkler system that become impaired. NFPA 25 Chapter 15 Impairments section A15.5.2(4)(b) A fire watch should consist of trained personnel who continuously patrol the affected area. Ready access to fire extinguishers and the ability to promptly notify the fire department are important items to consider. During the patrol of the area, the person should not only be looking for fire, but making sure that the other fire protection features of the building such as egress routes and alarm systems are available and functioning properly.

The NFPA definition of a fire watch is as follows: “The assignment of a person or persons to an area for the express purpose of notifying the fire department, the building occupants, or both of an emergency; preventing a fire from occurring; extinguishing small fires; or protecting the public from fire or life safety dangers.” The impairment duration that will require a fire watch is also stated in the adopted fire codes: Where a fire protection system is out of service for **more than 10 hours in a 24-hour period**, the impairment coordinator shall arrange for one of the following:

The following duties shall be guidelines for Personnel (private or Palm Beach Fire Rescue personnel) assigned to provide Fire Watch as mandated in the Florida Fire Prevention Code:

The approved fire watch should consist of trained personnel who:

1. Continually patrol all areas of the structure or facility and document their patrol a minimum of once every hour.
2. Are trained in the proper use of a fire extinguisher and have one accessible at all times.
3. Are capable of communicating with the building occupants and the fire department for emergency notifications at all times.
4. Individuals assigned should be in continuous and constant communication with a central station, unit, or dispatch, i.e., portable radio, cell phone.
5. Keep all areas of the structure clear of possible hazards.
6. Watch personnel shall notify Dispatch immediately (561) 838-5454, or 911. It is the responsibility of the Fire Watch personnel to alarm the occupants and begin evacuation of the area until further assistance is received.
7. Personal safety and that of the occupants is the primary objective. Fire Watch personnel shall assess the area and review the pre-incident fire plan for evacuation areas, crowd control and safety.
8. Fire Watch personnel should report to the command location the type of incident, and any information that may be of assistance to the arriving units.
9. Accurate records of the daily tour shall be kept and documented in the Fire Watch Log. The log must be signed by each individual performing Fire Watch duty and forwarded to the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division on a daily basis or intervals agreed to with the fire marshal and for the duration of the watch. Upon removal of the Fire Watch all original documents must be submitted to the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division.