

Interim Measures

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Interim measures are actions taken to ensure the safety of the building's occupants during times when features and systems for fire safety are defective, compromised, or inoperable due to construction, maintenance, a breakdown, or repair, or due to an emergency situation such as civil unrest. When fire safety risks cannot be immediately addressed and corrected, the hospital plans for improvements to address the risks. Interim measures may need to be implemented to ensure the safety of occupants until improvements or repairs can be completed. The hospital determines when and to what extent interim measures will be implemented.

The following are examples of interim measures:

1. The hospital initiates a fire watch, which involves a trained individual(s) patrolling the areas of the building affected by the impairment/fire safety risk to look for evidence of smoke, fire, or other abnormal conditions. For example, a fire watch is initiated when a fire alarm system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period, or a sprinkler system is out of service for more than 10 hours in a 24-hour period.
2. The hospital posts signs identifying the location of alternative exits to everyone in the affected area of the hospital (for example, when normal exit pathways and/or exit doors are not accessible or not functional due to construction or maintenance activities).
3. The hospital inspects exits in affected areas on a daily basis.
4. The hospital provides temporary but equivalent fire alarm and detection systems for use when a fire alarm system is impaired.
5. The hospital provides additional firefighting equipment.
6. The hospital uses temporary construction partitions that are smoke-tight or made of noncombustible or limited-combustible material that will not contribute to the development or spread of fire.
7. The hospital increases surveillance of buildings, grounds, and equipment, giving special attention to construction and storage areas.
8. The hospital enforces storage, housekeeping, and debris-removal practices that reduce the building's flammable and combustible fire load to the lowest feasible level.
9. The hospital provides additional training to staff on the use of firefighting equipment.
10. The hospital conducts additional fire safety exercises with staff.
11. The hospital inspects and tests temporary fire systems monthly.
12. The hospital conducts education to promote awareness of fire safety-related building deficiencies, impairments, construction hazards, and temporary measures implemented to maintain fire safety.
13. The hospital provides additional training to staff to compensate for increased risks due to impaired structural or compartmental fire safety features.
14. Any other interim measure, as determined by the hospital, that is appropriate to the fire safety risk.