

PALM HARBOR FIRE RESCUE

FIRE WATCH REQUIREMENTS



WHAT IS A FIRE WATCH?

The Florida Fire Prevention Code, 7th Ed. (2020) defines a Fire Watch as "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; protecting the public from fire and life safety dangers."

WHEN IS A FIRE WATCH REQUIRED?

The AHJ (Palm Harbor Fire Rescue) shall have the authority to require standby fire personnel or an approved fire watch when potentially hazardous conditions or a reduction in a life safety feature exist due to the type of performance, display, exhibit, occupancy, contest, or activity; an impairment to a fire protection feature; or the number of persons present.

NFPA 1:1.7.17.1 (FFPC, 7th Ed.)

In the event of a failure of a fire protection system or an excessive number of accidental activations, the AHJ (Palm Harbor Fire Rescue) shall be permitted to require an approved fire watch until the system is repaired.

NFPA 1:13.1.11 (FFPC, 7th Ed.)

OWNER / OCCUPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

The owner, agent, or lessee shall employ one or more qualified persons, as required and approved, to be on duty. NFPA 1:1.7.17.2 (FFPC, 7th Ed.)

FIRE WATCH DUTIES

A fire watch should consist of trained personnel who continuously patrol any hazardous areas or areas affected by fire protection system impairments.

Fire Watch personnel should be trained on the following:

- Procedures for ensuring prompt notification to both 9-1-1 and building occupants in the event of an emergency.
- Procedures for Fire Watch patrol. During the patrol of affected areas, personnel should not only be looking for fire, but should also be making sure that the other fire protection features of the building such as egress routes and alarm systems are available and functioning properly.
- Locations of portable fire extinguishers and methods for their effective use.
- Procedures for completing the Fire Watch Log and forwarding it to the Fire Prevention Division. [Click to open Fire Watch Log](#).

HOW OFTEN TO PATROL?

Palm Harbor Fire Rescue requires Fire Watch personnel to patrol all affected areas every 60 minutes, while the building is occupied.