



West Manatee Fire & Rescue District Fire & Life Safety Bureau

"Excellence through Engineering, Education & Enforcement"

Fire Watch Policy

Per NFPA 1.7.17.1, "The AHJ 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."

A fire watch shall at least involve some special action beyond the norm, such as assigning an individual/s to walk the area affected. Such individuals shall be specially trained in notifying fire department, building occupants, or both of an emergency; preventing a fire from occurring; extinguishing small fires or protecting the public from fire and life safety dangers.

Once a fire watch has been initiated, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. Management shall acquire individuals, approved by AHJ, who are dedicated solely to fire watch duty. A qualified fire watch includes a security company that has been trained in fire watch procedures, off-duty firefighter with minimum standards, off-duty police officer with police standards, or persons approved by the Fire Marshal.
2. AHJ shall instruct fire watch personnel as to the route covered.
3. The route shall be explicitly defined to ensure that fire watch personnel patrol the correct area.
4. The fire watch personnel assigned to each route shall be provided with instructions, a communication device to contact 911, any keys needed, contact information for the property, all details regarding the route, and the functions to be carried out in covering the route.
5. Fire watch personnel shall make rounds at one half (1/2) hour intervals.
6. During the rounds, fire watch personnel shall make a thorough inspection of all building or spaces including concealed areas, such as attics, unoccupied storage areas, etc. Fire watch personnel shall document begin time and end time of each individual round and the name (printed) and the initials of the personnel. All documentation shall be on log sheets provided by or approved by AHJ.
7. Email or fax completed log sheets to the Fire & Life Safety Bureau every morning by 7:00 am at 941-201-7904 or rod@wmfr.org

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