



## BAY COUNTY FIRE & LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION BUREAU

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Fire/Life Safety System Fire Watch Alternative  
Based on the 2021 8th Edition of the  
Florida Fire Prevention Code

**NFPA 101-3.3.108 Fire Watch.** 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.

**NFPA 1-13.1.11** In the event of a failure of a fire protection system or an excessive number of accidental activations, the AHJ shall be permitted to require an approved fire watch.

**NFPA 72 -10.21.5** Where required, mitigating measures acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction shall be implemented for the period that the system is impaired.

**NFPA 101-9.6.1.5** Fire Alarm system impairment procedures shall comply with NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*.

**NFPA 101-A.9.6.1.5** A fire watch should at least involve some special action beyond normal staffing, such as assigning an additional security guard(s) to walk the areas affected. These individuals should be specially trained in fire prevention and in occupant and fire department notification techniques, and they should understand the particular fire safety situation for public education purposes.

**NFPA 101-9.11.2** Sprinkler System Impairments. Sprinkler impairment procedures shall comply with NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*.

**NFPA 25-15.5.2(4)** Where a required 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: (a) Evacuation of the building or portion of the building affected by the system out of service (b) An approved Fire Watch (c) Establishment of a temporary water supply (d) Eliminate potential ignition sources and limit fuel available to the fire.

The Approved Fire Watch Should consist of trained personnel who:

- Continually patrol the area, structure or facility and document the patrol a minimum of once every hour.
- Are trained in the use of a fire extinguisher and have one accessible at all times.
- Are capable of communicating with building occupants and the fire department to notify them about fires or other emergencies.
- Maintain a record of the Fire Watch for inspection by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

