



# IDAHO FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention Division  
343 E Street, Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
(208) 612-8497  
e-mail: [fireprev@idahofallsidaho.gov](mailto:fireprev@idahofallsidaho.gov)

## FIRE WATCH REQUIREMENTS

The following procedures contains detailed criteria which shall be used as a reference in conjunction with requirements for a fire watch or standby personnel from the International Fire Code, specific permit conditions, other locations in Idaho Falls Fire Department Standards, or by specific direction of Idaho Falls Fire Marshal.

**901.7 SYSTEMS OUT OF SERVICE.** Where a required fire protection system is out of service, the fire department and the **fire code official** shall be notified immediately and, where required by the **fire code official**, the building shall either be evacuated or an **approved** fire watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire protection system has been returned to service.

Where utilized, fire watches shall be provided with at least one **approved** means for notification of the fire department and their **only duty** shall be to perform constant patrols of the protected premises and keep watch for fires.

### **901.7.1 IMPAIRMENT COORDINATOR;**

The building owner shall assign an impairment coordinator to comply with the requirements of this section. In the absence of a specific designee, the **owner** shall be considered the impairment coordinator.

### **FIRE WATCH FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AND MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS:**

In the event you are directed to provide a fire watch for your building or group of buildings, you shall meet the following requirements:

- The fire watch shall be in place at the site by the time directed by the Idaho Falls Fire Department (*no later than 24 hours from the initial alarm or trouble signal*).
- You shall provide one fire watch person per 50,000 square feet of gross floor area of commercial, warehouse, office, retail, or industrial building;

— OR —

- You shall provide one fire watch per 20 units of residential occupancy

— OR —

- You shall provide a number of fire watch personnel as directed by the Fire Marshal.

### **PERSONNEL**

- A fire watch shall be a responsible adult who is a minimum of 18 years old who is capable of recognizing and responding to a fire emergency in an efficient and appropriate manner.

### **EQUIPMENT**

- Each fire watch person must be equipped with a portable radio, mobile phone, on site fixed radio, or fixed phone on site with which he/she can notify fire dispatch (911) of a fire emergency or can notify a constantly monitored communications center who in turn can directly and immediately notify 911 of an emergency.



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## RESPONSIBILITY

- The sole responsibility of the fire watch shall be to systematically and continuously make rounds of the building(s) under his/her responsibility, access all spaces available to him/her and report any fire emergency to 911 or a monitoring communications center.

## ROTATION OF PERSONNEL

- Rotation and/or substitution of fire watch personnel must be provided for especially during extreme weather circumstances or prolonged duration to ensure constant and alert response to any fire emergency.

## CONTINUATION OF FIRE WATCH

- The fire watch shall continue until all systems have been restored, deficiencies have been corrected and the system is fully operational. A "Fire Watch" shall maintain a record of their activity or rounds as directed by the Fire Marshal.

### 901.7.4 Preplanned impairment programs.

Preplanned impairments shall be authorized by the impairment coordinator. Before authorization is given, a designated individual shall be responsible for verifying that all of the following procedures have been implemented:

- The extent and expected duration of the impairment have been determined.
- The areas or buildings involved have been inspected and the increased risks determined.
- Recommendations have been submitted to management or building owner/manager.
- The fire department has been notified.
- The insurance carrier, the alarm company, building owner/manager, and other authorities having jurisdiction have been notified.
- The supervisors in the areas to be affected have been notified.
- A tag impairment system has been implemented.
- Necessary tools and materials have been assembled on the impairment site.
- Fire personnel have contact Fire Dispatch placing a fire watch in effect.

### 901.7.5 Emergency impairments.

When unplanned impairments occur, appropriate emergency action shall be taken to minimize potential injury and damage. The impairment coordinator shall implement the steps outlined above.

### 901.7.6 Restoring systems to service.

When impaired equipment is restored to normal working order, the impairment coordinator shall verify that all of the following procedures have been implemented:

- Necessary inspections and tests have been conducted to verify that affected systems are operational.
- Supervisors have been advised that protection is restored.
- The fire department has been advised that protection is restored.
- The building owner/manager, insurance carrier, Alarm Company, and other involved parties have been advised that protection is restored.
- The impairment tag has been removed.



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### **FIRE WATCH FOR PROBLEMATIC SYSTEMS OR DURING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE OR REMODEL:**

A fire watch in conjunction with problematic systems, or fire sprinkler or alarm systems which in part or in their entirety are out of service for maintenance or remodel shall meet the following requirements:

In the event of temporary failure of the fire protection system or an excessive number of accidental or non-fire alarm activations, the Fire Marshal is authorized to require the building owner or occupant to provide standby personnel as set forth in IFC 901.7.5 until the system is restored. Refer to IFC 901.7.6.

While the system is out of service for maintenance or repair, the technicians who have placed the system out of service shall be responsible for the duties of a fire watch as follows:

- The first responsibility of the fire watch shall be to notify all affected occupancies of the system work, estimated time out of service, and notification of any tests.
- The fire watch shall systematically and regularly make rounds of the building(s) under his/her responsibility, access all spaces available to him/her and report any fire emergency to 911 or a monitoring communications center.

### **FIRE WATCH FOR BURNING/LAND CLEARING:**

A fire watch in conjunction with a burn or land clearing permit or action shall meet the following requirements:

The fire watch shall be at the site at all times from the ignition of the burn until its total extinguishment.

There shall at no time be less than one fire watch and shall always be as many as necessary to control and/or extinguish the fire.

A fire watch shall be a responsible adult who is a minimum of 18 years old who is capable of recognizing and responding to a fire emergency in an efficient and appropriate manner. The fire watch shall be capable of efficiently and effectively operating all fire control equipment at the scene.

Each fire watch must be equipped with a portable radio, mobile phone, on site fixed radio, or fixed phone on site with which he/she can notify fire dispatch (911) of a fire emergency or can notify a constantly monitored communications center who in turn can directly and immediately notify 911 of an emergency. For a burn/land clearing situation only, such communication shall be within 1000' of the designated fire area.

The sole responsibility of the fire watch shall be to systematically and continuously make rounds of the fire area and maintain continuous control of the fire under his/her responsibility, and report any fire emergency to 911 or a monitoring communications center.

Rotation and/or substitution of fire watch personnel must be provided, especially during extreme weather circumstances or prolonged duration to ensure constant and alert response to any fire emergency, and maintain control of the fire.

**The "Fire Watch" shall maintain a record of their activity or rounds when, and as directed by the Fire Marshal.**



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## FIRE WATCH AGREEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the requirements for a “Fire Watch”. I understand the fire protection systems that are out of service are required for my business operations and that my Certificate of Occupancy can be revoked for failure to provide the required coverage for my business.

I have assigned \_\_\_\_\_ as my designated “Fire Watch” personnel. The number they can be reached at is \_\_\_\_\_.

After my system is repaired I will contact the Fire Dispatch Center at (208) 529-1200 advising that my system is back in service.

I will provide a copy of the Fire Watch report to the Idaho Falls Fire Prevention Division. They can be contacted at (208) 612-8497. The fax number is (208) 612-8513 for faxed reports.

Reports can also be e-mailed to: [fireprev@idahofallsidaho.gov](mailto:fireprev@idahofallsidaho.gov)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed Name of Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Fire Official*