



## *Austin Fire Department*

### Emergency Prevention Division / Fire Marshall's Office

One Texas Center  
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A fire watch is required of the following occupancies when one of the following required fire protection systems is inoperable

Occupancy	Alarm	Sprinkler	Monitoring	Pump
Apartment	LS	LS	NR <sup>1</sup>	LS <sup>11, 13</sup>
Big box/retail	BE <sup>2, 8</sup>	LS	NR <sup>3</sup>	LS <sup>11</sup>
Hi-rise residential	LS <sup>6</sup>	LS <sup>6</sup>	LS <sup>5</sup>	LS <sup>11</sup>
Hi-rise office	LS <sup>7</sup>	LS <sup>6</sup>	LS <sup>5</sup>	LS <sup>11</sup>
Hotel/motel	LS	LS	LS <sup>5</sup>	LS <sup>11</sup>
Hospital	LS	LS	NR <sup>3</sup>	LS <sup>11</sup>
Nursing home	LS	LS	NR <sup>3</sup>	LS <sup>11</sup>
Office building	BE <sup>8, 2</sup>	BE <sup>2, 4</sup>	NR <sup>3</sup>	BE <sup>11, 13</sup>
Public assembly	FD <sup>7, 10, 12</sup>	FD <sup>7, 10, 11, 12</sup>	BE <sup>3, 7</sup>	FD <sup>11</sup>
Schools	BE <sup>2, 3</sup>	LS <sup>9</sup>	NR <sup>3</sup>	LS <sup>11</sup>
Warehouse	BE	BE	NR <sup>3</sup>	LS <sup>11, 13</sup>
Fireworks - outdoors	Pre-Inspection, fire watch and post inspection by personnel assigned to the AFD Emergency Prevention Division. AFD Apparatus stand-by may be required.			
Pyrotechnics - indoors	Permit required. Fire watch conducted by personnel assigned to the AFD Emergency Prevention Division required during event. Operational fire sprinkler system required.			
Welding / hot work	Fire watch provided by employee during hot work activities and shall continue for a minimum of 30 minutes after conclusion per IFC 2009 Section 2604.2			

#### A. Abbreviations

LS - Licensed Security Company      BE - Building/Occupancy Employees  
 FD - Fire Department Personnel      NR - Fire Watch Not Required

## **B. References**

1. Management must notify all occupants that monitoring is down, and that in the event of an emergency, 911 should be called.
2. If available, an employee knowledgeable in the use of the public address system may be used. Fire watch must remain in place at all times the building is occupied and must be the assigned employee's sole duty.
3. All employees must be notified and advised to dial 911 in case of an emergency.
4. Fire watch required after normal business hours.
5. In order to dial 911 in case of alarm, one person must remain at Fire Alarm Control Panel at all times. This may be an employee if required for less than 2 hours.
6. Fire watch personnel must be able to walk each floor every 15 to 30 minutes. The recommendation is 1 person per maximum of 5 floors maximum, but more personnel may be needed
7. Not required when building is not occupied.
8. All employees must be notified.
9. If equipped with full alarm with smoke detection, building employee may be used
10. Load may be reduced to 299 or less. Number of AFD personnel conducting fire watch will vary depending on number of rooms and occupant load desired.
11. Fire apparatus stand-by may be required
12. Licensed security may be used with approval of AHJ
13. Fire watch may not be required if adequate flow, verified by fire protection contractor, is available to activate alarm and an extended delay will result in repair of the pump.

- C.** The following conditions must be observed at all times fire watch duties are required
- a. Fire watch duty personnel are intended to provide early detection, early local notification, early emergency response notification and assistance with evacuation. Duties do not include fire fighting activities although the extinguishment of fire in the early stages may be provided as described in International Fire Code Section 403.
  - b. The only duty fire watch personnel shall perform are those duties associated with fire watch. No other assignments, including security work, shall be performed.
  - c. The number of fire watch personnel required will be determined by the Austin Fire Department Prevention Division. Where more than one person is assigned, only one person will be assigned responsibility for notifying 911.
  - d. Austin Fire Department personnel assigned fire watch duties will be equipped with radio communications capabilities for contact with emergency dispatch and emergency responding personnel.

- e. Building/Occupancy Employees and/or Licensed Security fire watch personnel must have two-way communication capabilities to alert 911 in case of emergency. If more than one person is conducting the fire watch, they must be able to communicate with each other (cell phone, portable radio or phone line).
- f. The Licensed Security Company contracted to perform fire watch duties is required to notify the Authority Having Jurisdiction in writing that the Security Company has been contracted to perform those duties. If the Business/Occupancy is performing the fire watch duties with internal employees, the Business/Occupancy is required to notify the Austin Fire Department with the name(s) of the employees performing those duties. The address, business/occupancy name and date and times of fire watch must be included in the notification.
- g. Fire watch personnel shall conduct constant patrols of the protected premises and shall keep a journal to log all activities every 30 minutes. The journal shall be presented to the Austin Fire Department upon request.
- h. Once established, fire watch is to be maintained until condition(s) that resulted in the fire watch have been corrected and the Austin Fire Department releases the fire watch.
- i. Fire watch duties required to be provided by Licensed Security Company personnel may be delayed on holidays or weekends. In such a case management shall provide "in-house" fire watch personnel, but such personnel shall be replaced as soon as licensed security personnel are available. If no Licensed Security Company personnel are available, AFD Emergency Prevention shall evacuate the building per International Fire Code Section 901.7, or AFD Emergency Prevention personnel may provide the fire watch services with established fees.