

Revised as of June 01, 2015

## FIRE WATCH GUIDELINES

A fire watch is a short-term, emergency measure to provide an acceptable level of life safety in a building or occupancy, which has an impaired fire safety system. A fire watch is a compensatory measure only and is intended to allow continued occupancy of a building or facility which may not be safe to be occupied during the time period required to implement appropriate changes or repairs. The purpose of the fire watch is to check **ALL** areas of the building on a regular basis to detect fire/life safety emergencies and then to alert the facility occupants to take appropriate action as early as possible.

### WHEN REQUIRED

A fire watch is usually required to be implemented IMMEDIATELY when certain conditions are discovered either by the facility themselves or by authorities.

Examples of when a fire watch may be required by the Los Lunas Fire Marshal's Office include:

- a) Outage or significant impairment of the fire alarm signaling system.
- b) Outage or significant impairment of the automatic fire suppression system.
- c) Outage or significant impairment of the facilities water supply.
- d) Impairment of the facility's exiting system NOT significant enough to warrant evacuation and shutdown of the facility and in addition negotiated occupancy levels.

Different occupancies have different levels of risk determined a great deal by the relative vulnerability of the occupants. It is not appropriate to treat all occupancies the same therefore each situation shall be evaluated individually and the above examples are not prescriptive.

## FIRE WATCH PROCEDURES

- a) Notify ALL staff and occupants (if appropriate) immediately.
- b) Fire watch shall be maintained during entire period of facility occupancy.
- c) Person(s) assigned to fire watch SHALL HAVE NO OTHER DUTIES.
- d) Fire watch plans include notification/communication procedures. May include the use of portable radios and cellular phones to send an alarm to occupants and emergency response forces.
- e) Fire watch shall include ALL AREAS of the facility. Special attention shall be paid to storage areas janitor closets, utility spaces, and other normally unoccupied areas.
- f) All areas are to be checked AT LEAST HOURLY. More frequent checks may be mandated if required.