



County of Prince George, Virginia

"A welcoming community • Embracing its rural character • Focusing on its prosperous future"

FIRE WATCH STANDARDS

I. PURPOSE:

It is the purpose of this standard to define a uniform guide for providing a fire watch when required by the Prince George County Fire Official or his designee.

II. SCOPE:

This standard shall set forth the requirements of a fire watch when a building or premises presents a hazard to life or property as the result of a fire or other emergency, or when it is determined that any fire protection equipment or life safety system is inoperable, defective, inadequate, has been taken out of service, is not approved, or when deemed necessary by the Prince George County Fire Official or his designee.

III. BACKGROUND:

Historically, fire watch requirements are utilized to augment or substitute certain fire protection requirements to allow certain uses, occupancies, or operations to occur for a short period of time. Significant problems arise from the use of a fire watch where the purpose or direction for the fire watch is vague or nonexistent. Although it is not possible to cover all of the potential uses of a fire watch, this standard provides specific guidelines for the most commonly encountered uses of a fire watch, which fall into two main categories:

1. Fire watch for augmenting fire protection.

Examples: Special events or operations/uses.

2. Fire watch to temporarily substitute for required fire protection that is inoperable or not consistent with the level required for any reason until such system has been approved for service.

Examples: Temporarily removal of any component of a fire protection system from service for any reason.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. RESPONSIBILITY

The owner, manager, or responsible person in charge of the building or premises shall assign to the fire watch as many personnel as are necessary and such persons shall be approved by the Fire Official and responsible to provide:

1. A means of reliable communication to the fire department as approved by the Prince George Fire Official or his designee.
2. Two way radios to facilitate communication and evacuation on premises.
3. Instruction in the procedure for reporting emergencies to the Fire Department.
4. Detailed instruction of method, location and frequency to be patrolled.

5. A method of alerting building occupants and an evacuation procedure when two or more fire watch personnel are required.
3. A procedure for reactivating sprinkler valves in the event of a fire when the sprinkler system has been taken out of service.
4. Any other instruction required by the authority having jurisdiction.

B. LOGBOOK

- a. The owner manager or responsible person in charge or control of the premises shall provide a logbook, which contains a directory of names, telephone numbers, and other information to assist in making emergency calls and calls to key management personnel.
- b. The logbook shall be maintained on the premises and be immediately available for inspection by the authority having jurisdiction.
- c. The logbook shall be used to record a history of patrol rounds (see attached sample log). The frequency of rounds shall be as approved by the Prince George County Fire Official.

C. SPECIFIC DUTY REQUIREMENTS

Assigned fire watch personnel shall:

- a. Be able to communicate effectively.
- b. Be thoroughly familiar with the area they are patrolling.
- c. Perform patrol operations according to employer's instruction.
- d. Patrol their designated area at least once each half hour.
- e. Make reports as instructed. A written record of patrol rounds and any significant information shall be recorded in a logbook provided by management.
- f. Relay any special orders or pertinent information to relief personnel and management.
- g. Remain on duty until properly relieved.
- h. Patrol the entire building, all rooms, including offices, basements, penthouses, etc.
- i. Have some visible means of identification, such as an armband or nametag as approved by the authority having jurisdiction.
- j. Alert building occupants of any emergency and direct evaluation when required by the Prince George County Fire Official.

NOTE: Random checks may be made by fire official personnel to ensure all of the above provisions are being complied with. The fire watch shall not be stopped until the fire official provides authorization to stop or discontinue. The undersigned accepts the requirements within this standard and will follow the guidelines as written at the following facility:

Responsibility to supervise fire watch:

Title: _____