

Jollyville Fire Department

Fire Watch Requirements

For the safety of building occupants, fire and life safety codes require the installation of fire protection systems in many types of buildings. When one of these systems is critically impaired or inoperable, a fire watch must be utilized to ensure occupant safety until the system is repaired and returned to service. A fire watch is defined as: a temporary measure intended to ensure continuous and systematic surveillance of a building or portion thereof by one or more qualified individuals for the purposes of identifying and controlling fire hazards, detecting early signs of unwanted fire, and notifying occupants and the fire department in the event of an emergency.

Fire watch is required for any building that is occupied while the required fire alarm/notification system is not functioning. When it is determined that fire watch is required, fire watch should be established by property owners or management. Fire watch will normally be conducted by either a licensed security officer or property management. If property management is unavailable or unwilling to establish the fire watch as required, the fire watch will be established by fire department personnel with incurred charges billed to building management and/or owners. The use of fire department personnel to conduct fire watch should occur only in those rare instances where the life safety of building occupants is the paramount concern and no alternatives are available.

Fire watch personnel shall conduct constant patrols of the protected premises. Fire watch personnel are required to keep a journal and log all activities every 30 minutes. The journal shall be presented to the fire department upon request.

Once established, fire watch is to be maintained until impairments have been corrected.

Fire Watch Guidelines

1. Management must notify all building occupants that monitoring is down and inform them that they should call 911 in the event of fire.
2. Fire watch must remain in service at all times that the building is occupied and the fire protection system is out of service.
3. A management employee or licensed security officer may be assigned fire watch duties.
4. Fire watch may only be terminated after the system has been returned to full service.
5. Fees for fire department fire watch is \$350 per hour, minimum two hours