

NEW MEXICO STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

IFC 2021- 202 FIRE WATCH. 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, raising an alarm of fire and notifying the fire department.

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 protection system(s). A fire watch is a continuous and temporary measure only, intended to allow continued occupancy of a building or facility which may not be safe to be occupied during the time required to implement appropriate changes or repairs.

Where a required fire protection system is out of service, the fire department and the fire code official shall be **notified immediately** and consulted to ensure it is safe to remain open. Where required by the fire code official, the building shall be either 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.

The following is required if a fire watch is used:

- 1 Fire watch shall have at least one means of notification to contact 911.
- 2 Fire watch personnel shall remain on duty while places requiring a fire watch are open to the public, or when an activity requiring a fire watch is being conducted.
- 3 Fire watch shall check every room, closet, mechanical/electric room in the affected area.
- 4 Fire watch shall be done continuously.
- 5 Fire watch shall be accomplished by a solely dedicated person trained to be able to initiate evacuation, notification of proper personnel.
- 6 Tags will be placed on the fire department connection, system control valves, fire alarm control units, fire alarm annunciators (contact fire code official for guidance).
- 7 Supervision/management/ impairment coordinator shall have information on the extent and duration of impairments:
 - Affected area inspected for expected increased risks
 - Ensure fire and code officials are aware of the situation
 - Property owners and insurance carriers should be notified

Once the system or systems are back operational the following shall be accomplished:

1. Necessary inspections and tests have been conducted to verify that the affected systems are operational and properly restored.
2. Supervisors have been advised that protection is restored.
3. The fire department has been advised that protection is restored.
4. The building owner/manager, insurance carrier, alarm company and other involved parties have been advised that protection is restored.
5. The impairment tag(s) has been removed.

Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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Attention Occupants



FIREWATCH IN PROGRESS

This Building Fire Alarm or Automatic Fire Sprinkler System is out-of-service.

Fire Watch personnel is conducting a continuous tour of common areas to provide smoke and/or fire detection. Please be alert to evidence of smoke or fire. Please call **911** immediately if smoke or fire is seen or suspected.

Evacuate the building immediately upon hearing a siren, fire alarm air horn, whistle, or other alert.

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Name of Building under Fire Watch _____

Person performing Fire Watch _____

I have read the instructions about conducting this Fire Watch and understand that I am responsible to follow those instructions and patrol my designated area at least once each hour.

Signature: _____

Date: ___/___/___ Time: ___/___ am pm Area patrolled: _____

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