

County of Santa Clara

Department of Planning and Development

County Government Center, East Wing, 7th Floor

70 West Hedding Street

San Jose, CA 95110

Phone: (408) 299-5700

www.sccplandev.org



STANDARD DETAILS & SPECIFICATIONS

SUBJECT: Fire Watch

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| Spec No | C-2 |
| Revised Date | 02.27.25 |
| Review Date | 02.27.25 |
| Eff. Date | 11.01.25 |
| Approved By | HRE |
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SCOPE

Fire watch requirements apply whenever 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 impaired, has been taken out of service, is not approved, or when deemed necessary by the Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD).

AUTHORITY

The 2022 California Fire Code (C.F.C.) 3305.5, CFC 901.7, CFC 3504.2, CFC 403.11.1

DEFINITIONS

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.

REQUIREMENTS

I. Fire Watch

- A. The duration and times per day for a fire watch shall be determined by the Santa Clara County Fire Department. Fire Watch Personnel shall conduct periodic patrols of the entire building and/or facility. Patrols shall be conducted every 15 minutes if the building/facility has people sleeping, is an institutional facility or an

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occupied assembly facility. Facilities not meeting the previous conditions shall be patrolled every 30 minutes.

- B. Fire watch personnel shall be pre-approved by the Santa Clara County Fire Department and shall have the following responsibilities Per CFC 403.11.1.2
1. Keep diligent watch for fires, obstructions to means of egress and other hazards.
 2. Take prompt measures for remediation of hazards and extinguishments of fires that occur.
 3. Take prompt measure to assist in evacuation of the public from the structures.
 4. Be able to communicate effectively.
 5. Be thoroughly familiar with the area they are patrolling.
 6. Make reports as instructed. A written record of patrol rounds and any significant information shall be recorded in accordance with the Fire Watch log.
 7. Alert building occupants of an emergency and direct evacuation when required.
- C. Fire watch personnel shall have access to cellular devices with sufficient signal strength, know the exact address of the property, and how to report a fire or other emergency condition by **Calling 9-1-1**.
- D. Fire watch personnel shall be trained in the use of fire extinguishers, shall have access to all facility fire extinguishers, and know the fire extinguisher locations.
- E. Fire watch personnel shall have knowledge of and be trained in the facility's evacuation plan in the event of a fire. They shall be able to communicate with occupants well enough to give an evacuation order.
- F. Fire watch personnel shall not be permitted, while on duty, to perform any other duties.

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- G. Fire watch personnel shall not be impaired and shall remain awake and alert at all times.
- H. Personnel shall remain on duty until properly relieved and shall relay any special orders or pertinent information to relief personnel and/or management.
- I. Fire watch personnel shall log all fire watch related activities. This log shall include: address of the facility, time of each patrol, name of the fire watch person, comments and other related activities performed, findings (i.e. all clear, checked hallways, kitchen clear, and exits operational). The log shall be emailed or delivered daily to the Santa Clara County Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division: prevention@sccfd.org.
- J. Fire watch shall be maintained until released in writing by the Fire Department.

II. Record Keeping

A physical copy of the fire watch log shall be maintained at the facility. The log must be available to the Santa Clara County Fire Department at all times during the fire watch. The log will show the following: The address of the facility, times the patrol completed each tour of the facility, name of the person(s) conducting the fire watch, record of any communication(s) to the Fire Department and/or monitoring company, record of other information as required by the Fire Department.

Note: Random checks may be made by Fire Department personnel to ensure compliance with Fire Watch requirements.

