



**FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU**

**Escambia County Fire Rescue
Fire/Life Safety System Fire Watch Alternative
Based on the 2007 edition of the Florida Fire Prevention
Code**

Frank Edwards
Chief

NFPA 101-3.3.91 Fire Watch. The assignment of a person or persons to an area for the express purpose of notifying the fire department, the building occupants, or both of an emergency; preventing a fire from occurring; extinguishing small fires; or protecting the public from fire or life safety dangers.

NFPA 101-9.6.1.6* Where a required fire alarm system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified, and the building shall be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all parties left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire alarm system has been returned to service.

NFPA 101-A.9.6.1.7 A fire watch should at least involve some special action beyond normal staffing, such as assigning an additional security guard(s) to walk the areas affected. These individuals should be specially trained in fire prevention and in occupant and fire department notification techniques, and they should understand the particular fire safety situation for public education purposes. (Also see NFPA 601, Standard for Security Services in Fire Loss Prevention.)

NFPA 101-9.7.6.1 Where a required automatic sprinkler system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified, and the building shall be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all parties left unprotected by the shutdown until the sprinkler system has been returned to service.

Where required the following shall constitute a Fire Watch as approved by Escambia County Fire Rescue.

The Fire Watch Shall:

- Continually patrol the area, structure or facility and document the patrol a minimum of once every hour.
- Be trained in the use of a fire extinguisher and have one accessible at all times.
- Be capable of communicating with building occupants and the fire department to notify them about fires or other emergencies.
- Maintain a record of the Fire Watch for inspection by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Contact the Escambia County Fire Marshal's Office at (850) 941 - 6008

