



South Montgomery County Fire Department

27900 Robinson Road · Conroe, TX 77385 · P. (281) 363-3473 · F. (281) 292-0487
<http://www.mcesd8.org> · inspections@mcesd8.org



Fire Watch Requirements

1) Purpose:

To provide fire watch requirements for an owner or responsible party when occupancy exceeds the calculated occupancy load (when approved by Montgomery County Fire Marshal's Office), when demolition of a building with hazardous conditions exists, when a fire alarm or fire sprinkler system are in disrepair or non-functional, or when required by the Fire Marshal's Office for life safety. Fire watch exception: If a fire alarm or sprinkler system is only non-functional for less than 4 hours within a 24 hour period.

2) Scope:

These requirements apply to all facilities located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the unincorporated areas of Montgomery County.

3) Background:

Due to a lack of specific requirements for fire watch within 2012 NFPA 101 life safety code, these requirements were developed to clarify and specify fire watch requirements.

4) Requirements:

- a) Fire watch personnel shall conduct patrol of the entire affected area.
- b) Fire watch personnel shall patrol the facility every 15 minutes if the facility has people sleeping, is an institutional facility, educational facility, or an occupied assembly facility. Facilities not meeting the previous conditions shall be patrolled every 30 minutes.
- c) Fire watch personnel shall have access to one approved means of communication; 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 have approved means of notifying and evacuating occupants in the event of a fire or smoke incident.
- e) Fire watch personnel shall notify emergency services by calling 9-1-1.
- f) Fire watch personnel shall not attempt to extinguish any fire that would place them in danger.
- g) Fire watch personnel shall be familiar with the buildings and property.
- h) Fire watch personnel shall be trained in the use of fire extinguishers, have access to all facility fire extinguishers and know their location.
- i) Fire watch personnel shall have knowledge of and be trained in the facility's evacuation plan.
- j) Fire watch personnel shall not be impaired and shall remain awake and alert at all times.
- k) Fire watch personnel shall not be permitted to perform any other duties, except when assigned by the Fire Marshal's Office.
- l) Fire watch personnel shall keep a log of fire watch related activities. An approved log shall be submitted within 24 hours of the first patrol, and every subsequent 24 hour period. The log shall be faxed to (281.292-0487), emailed to inspections@mcesd8.org, or hand delivered to the South Montgomery County Fire Department, Inspections Division within 24 hours.