

Code Informational Guideline (CIG)

Name: Fire Watch

Date: July, 2010

Code cycle: 2009 IFC

Description: The information provided below is to establish a guideline as to when a fire watch is required by Eastside Fire.

IFC section 901.7 Systems out of service: When a required fire protection system is out of service, the fire department and the fire code official shall be notified immediately and, where required by the fire code official, the building shall either be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all the occupants left unprotected by the shut down until the fire protection system has been returned to service.

Eastside Fire requires a fire watch under the guidelines listed below:

One System in building: (This means the building has only one fire protection system- either a fire alarm system or a fire sprinkler system- not both)

- Evacuate the building or provide a fire watch

Two Systems in building: (Building has both a fire alarm system and fire sprinkler system installed)

- If the **fire sprinkler system is out of service** and the **fire alarm system is still working**- **NO FIRE WATCH REQUIRED** (The system still working will provide an early notification for the occupant in case of a fire to evacuate and call 911).
- If the **fire alarm system is out of service** and the **fire sprinkler system is still working**- **FIRE WATCH IS REQUIRED** (Eastside Fire is very concerned about providing an early notification for the occupants of the building. The sprinkler system will provide a level of protection, but will not meet the requirement of providing early notification to the occupants as required by EF&R.

If a fire watch is required by the Fire Marshal's Office, please provide the building owner or requesting party the appropriate fire watch form. This form is to be completed and returned to the Fire Marshal at the request of the Fire Marshal's Office at any time and no later than 24 hours after Fire Marshal's Office no longer requires the fire watch.

(A fire watch is the action of an on-site person whose sole duty is to watch for the occurrence of fire. If a fire protection system fails, a building owner (or their representative) will be required to provide a fire watch until the system is repaired. Personnel to conduct the fire watch are determined by the building owner / agent. **Note:** A professional security company is not required.)