

Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's Office
Official Interpretation and Code Directive 2013-3

Fire Watch Requirements

Effective June 1, 2013 (Revised 2-12-2018)

This directive is to provide clarification and guidance in the usage of an approved fire watch.

The Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission (OUBCC) adopted the International Fire Code (IFC). The adopted IFC, section 901 states that “Where 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 occupants left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire protection system has been returned to service”.

“Where utilized, fire watches shall be provided with at least one approved means for notification to the fire department and their only duty shall be to perform constant patrols of the protected premises and keep watch for fires”

To provide clarification:

- 1) Fire watch personnel shall patrol the building, floor or site to observe the environment for fire hazards. Fire watch personnel shall have no other assigned duties.
- 2) Fire watch personnel shall have a reliable means to notify the fire department in the event of an emergency. The means of communication may be site dependent and a conversation with the local fire department may be necessary to establish a preferred method. The means of communication shall be specifically addressed in the required Fire Safety Plans per International Fire Code Section 404.

This directive is in compliance with Title 74 O.S., § 324.8 “Uniform Force and Effect – Authority of Cities, Towns and Counties” in that nothing in this directive shall prevent or take away from any city, town or county, the authority to enact and enforce rules containing higher standards and requirements than those provided herein .

Robert Doke
State Fire Marshal

