



Plano Fire-Rescue Fire Watch Requirements

This document is to establish the parameters for a required Fire Watch when required fire protection systems are out of service, pursuant to Section 901.7 of the International Fire Code, as found below.

A Fire Watch shall be required when the fire sprinkler and/or fire alarm system is out of service for eight (8) or more hours.

The owner/manager shall be responsible for assuring each occupied sleeping room has a working smoke alarm.

Fire Watch in occupancies that contain sleeping facilities shall be conducted by a licensed and bonded security company. One Fire Watch officer shall be provided for every two (2) floors of occupancy. It is required that all occupants be notified that a Fire Watch is in effect and to call 911 to report a fire.

Garden style apartments with doors exiting directly to the exterior of the building can have Fire Watch conducted by qualified on site paid staff provided this is their sole responsibility and each apartment in the building has verified working smoke alarms.

Fire Watch in occupancies **not** containing sleeping facilities can be accomplished by qualified paid staff of the facility provided that is their sole responsibility.

A Fire Watch shall remain in place until the facility's system is restored and approved by the Fire Marshal's Office.

Fire Watch Duties:

- Continuous and systematic surveillance of the building or portion thereof.
- Identifying and controlling fire hazards.
- Detecting early signs of unwanted fire.
- Raising an alarm of fire.
- Notifying the fire department.

Section 901.7 of the International Fire Code – *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 be either 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.*