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Troy Fire Department

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FIRE WATCH GUIDELINES

When the fire official requires the occupant to establish a "Fire Watch", the following guidelines shall be met:

The fire watch shall occur 24 hours per day until the circumstances necessitating the fire watch have been corrected. The fire official will establish a time limit for the fire watch. Upon expiration of the time limit, the fire official will review the situation to determine whether or not to extend the fire watch or order the evacuation of the building until the circumstances necessitating the fire watch have been corrected.

There shall be a minimum of one person for every five floors or each 20,000 square feet of building space walking and watching for signs of smoke or fire. Such person shall be equipped with a distinct sound producing device such as a portable air horn to warn occupants; be in constant readiness to report a fire or be in immediate communication with someone equipped to call the fire department; and be familiar with the location and use of manual fire suppression equipment such as fire extinguishers and/or hose stations.

Building occupants must be notified of the fire watch as soon as possible and be informed of the anticipated time frame for the watch. This shall include an explanation of the circumstances, i.e., the fire alarm system or sprinkler system is inoperative; directions to dial 9-1-1 to report a fire; and a familiarization with the sound to be used to warn occupants of a fire.

The fire official may elect to periodically inspect the building during the fire watch to ensure that effort is being made to correct the circumstances necessitating the fire watch, and that the fire watch procedure is in compliance.