



Regarding Fire Watch related to Fire Alarms

All codes from Florida Fire Prevention Code 7th Edition and NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code

1. When is fire watch authorized?

13.7.1.5.3 The AHJ shall be authorized to require standby fire personnel or an approved fire watch in accordance with 1.7.16 (Imminent Danger) at premises in which required fire alarm systems are impaired or classified as chronic nuisance alarm prone systems.

2. What constitutes impaired?

13.7.1.5.1 Impaired fire alarm systems shall include, but shall not be limited to, required systems that are not fully operational, are no longer monitored as required by the AHJ, or are under renovation or repair.

3. According to Florida Fire Prevention Code , when should WMFR be notified by building owner or representative of an impaired fire alarm system?

13.7.1.5.2 The system owner or designated representative shall immediately notify the AHJ in an approved manner when a fire alarm system is impaired.

4. How long does a fire alarm contractor have to report an out-of-service fire alarm system to WMFR?

10.20.4* The service provider shall report to the authority having jurisdiction any system that is out of service for more than 8 hours. HOWEVER, 10.20.5 SAYS, "WHERE REQUIRED BY THE AHJ, MITIGATING MEASURES SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE PERIOD THAT THE SYSTEM IS IMPAIRED." WMFR REQUIRES IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION TO ANALYZE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

5. The term out of service is meant to refer to the entire system or a substantial portion thereof.

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6. Considerations for mitigating measures include all the following except:

A.10.20.5 The need for mitigating measures is typically determined on a case-by-case basis. This considers the building, occupancy type, nature and duration of impairment, building occupancy level during impairment period, active work being conducted on the fire alarm system during the impairment, condition of other fire protection systems and features (i.e., sprinklers, structural compartmentation, etc.), and hazards and assets at risk.

Appropriate mitigating measures range from simple occupant notification to full-time fire watch. Determining factors vary from testing-related impairments and maintenance activities during normal business through extensive impairments to high-value, high-hazard situations.