

FIRE WATCH PROCEDURES

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

IF the referenced property has been put on a **FIRE WATCH** due to the failure of the Fire Protection System, you must follow directions below.

Whenever any required fire protection system fails or is impaired for any reason, the protected building shall be immediately evacuated OR a **Fire Watch** shall be implemented and maintained as follows:

- Sprinkler System and/or Sprinkler Monitoring Alarm-** Implement & maintain a **Fire Watch** 24 hours per day, until required system(s) is/are restored to service, regardless whether or not the building is occupied.
- Fire Alarm System only (local alarm or monitored off premises)** – maintain a **Fire Watch** anytime the building is occupied until the fire alarm system is restored to service.

The duties of a Fire Watch:

1. Maintain an alert status, i.e., will not be fatigued or asleep on duty.
2. Make periodic checks* of the building to promptly discover a fire or other emergency conditions.
3. Have access and knowledge of telephone locations to call the fire department in the event of an emergency.
4. Alert the other occupants of the building in the event of a fire or other emergency requiring evacuation.
5. Familiarize themselves with the location and operation of fire extinguishers.

False, Accidental or Unnecessary Alarms

In the event of false, accidental or unnecessary fire alarm system activations** in which the Fire Department has been dispatched, but the system still operates:

1. Place the system out of service with the monitoring company.
2. Establish a Fire Watch as outlined above.
3. Do not disconnect the system, but use it for a local alarm in conjunction with the Fire Watch.

*A person implementing a Fire Watch should patrol all unoccupied areas of a building often enough to detect conditions likely to result in fire or other emergency, no less than once per hour.

** A fire alarm system is deemed defective if more than 3 false alarms occur in a 30 day period, or more than 8 in 12 months.

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CIVIL ENFORCEMENT

Article 15, Title 3 (The Fire Prevention Code) may be enforced through injunctive proceedings or any other appropriate proceeding. A court of competent jurisdiction may issue a restraining Order, an interlocutory or final injunction, or other form remedy or relief to restrain or correct a violation of this title.

CIVIL FINE

(A) A person who violates any provision of Article 15, Title, is subject to a Civil Fine as provided in Article 9, Title 2, Section 101 of the Anne Arundel County Code. Each day that a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

(B) The Amount of the Civil Fine for each violation of the title is:

- (1) For the First Violation, \$125.00.
- (2) For the Second Violation, \$500.00.
- (3) For the Third Violation, and for each violation in excess of three, \$1,000.00.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

A person who violates any provision of Article 15, Title 3, (The Anne Arundel County Fire Prevention Code) Is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1000.00 or imprisonment not exceeding six months or both. Each day that a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

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