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Firewatch Requirements

University Of Maine System

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Firewatch Requirements

In accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101® Life Safety Code® 2009 Edition

9.6 Fire Detection, Alarm, and Communications Systems.

9.6.1.6 Where a required fire alarm system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24 hour period, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified, and the building shall be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all parties left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire alarm system has been returned to service.

***NOTE:** University of Maine System procedures require the assignment of a fire watch when any emergency system is removed from service in an occupied building. There is no mention of for more than 4 hours.*

A9.6.1.6 A Fire Watch

- Should at least involve some special action beyond normal staffing, such as assigning an additional security guard(s) to walk the areas affected. (Their duty is to attend to fire safety only, using their senses to detect any fire and look for potential problems.)
- These individuals should be specially trained in fire prevention (see Fire Prevention Plan below) and in occupant and fire department notification techniques (i.e. verbal notification for the people in the area and calling 581-4040 with a cell phone) and
- They must understand the particular fire safety situation for public education purposes.

Fire Prevention Plan for the University of Maine

List of major work place fire hazards:

- Flammable chemicals found in: laboratories, shops, art studios, maintenance activities (painting, cleaning, auto repair...) engines, boilers and other heating appliances.
- Processes involving open flame: welding, brazing and similar operations, cooking, smoking, and some lab operations.
- Heat producing devices: drying (both in the laundries and laboratories), cooking, heat producing devices such as hot plates and space heaters.
- Use and disposal of chemicals: experiments in labs, hazardous waste handling, oily rags in art studios, and shops.
- Electrical equipment: short circuits and malfunctioning equipment.

Flammable Chemical Proper Handling and Storage procedures:

Chemicals use and storage at the university are either covered under the specific Chemical Hygiene Plan in each or laboratory or under the Hazard Communications Policy. These plans and policy define safe storage and handling of chemicals. Basically we either follow the manufactures recommendation or industry standards and guidelines.

Potential ignition sources and their control procedures:

Open flames, electrical equipment, heat producing devices, and use and disposal of chemicals. The control procedures for these sources are detailed in the Chemical Hygiene Plan, and the Safety and Environmental Management Manual (appropriate sections within the manual are located on the SEM Policies and Guides web page). Smoking is not permitted in the interior of any University vehicle or building, with the exception of residence halls.

Types of Fire Protection Equipment and systems to control fires:

Many systems are in place including the following; Fire suppression equipment (sprinklers and fire extinguishers); Proper storage areas (flammable storage rooms and cabinets); Fire alarms and detectors; Building systems such as doors, walls, ceilings, and floors.

Job Titles responsible for maintenance of systems installed to prevent or control ignitions or fires:

Various groups at facilities management including: Electrical Shop, Plumbing Shop, and Carpenter Shop. Contact Facilities Management Safety Officer at 581-3049 for details.

Job Titles responsible for control of fuel source hazards:

All employees who use or store fuel sources are responsible for control. Major sources such as heating plants and gasoline storage are the responsibility of FM shops such as the Steam Plant, HVAC shop, and the Garage.

Housekeeping:

Housekeeping is the responsibility of the individual employee and Facilities Management. In general the individual is responsible for their workspace and the Facilities management is responsible for waste receptacles and the common spaces on campus. Hazardous waste is removed upon request of the waste generators by the department of Safety and Environmental Management.

Training:

All employees are required to receive Basic Safety and Area Specific training upon beginning at the University and annually thereafter, included in this training are fire prevention and emergency action plan training.

Maintenance:

The maintenance of heat producing equipment is the responsibility of the department and employees using the equipment. In the case of area specific equipment such as coffee pots, microwave ovens, and hot plate it is the responsibility of the department using the workspace. In the case of building systems it would be the responsibility of Facilities management. In all cases employees would follow the manufacturer's instructions and practices or industry standards as appropriate.