# Policy on Fire Watches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Title</th>
<th>Fire Watches</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Owner</td>
<td>Coordinator, Fire &amp; Life Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsible Office</td>
<td>Department of Public Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>Questions about fire watch requirements should be directed to the Coordinator, Fire &amp; Life Safety (401) 874-7994.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approved By</td>
<td>Senior Leadership Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective Date</td>
<td>July 23, 2018</td>
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<td>Next Review Date</td>
<td>July 23, 2020</td>
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<td>Entities Affected by Policy</td>
<td>All units of the University.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who Needs to Know About and Follow this Policy</td>
<td>This policy applies to all buildings on URI property whether owned or leased. All URI employees, contractors, and vendors shall be required to comply with the provisions of this policy.</td>
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## Definitions

**Authority Having Jurisdiction.** The Rhode Island State Fire Marshal’s office and/or entities to whom authority is delegated for administration and enforcement of the State Fire Code as permitted by Section 1.7.5.

**Impairment.** A situation in which any fire protection system, alarm or detection device is removed from service, either partially or completely, including both planned and emergency outages of the system or devices.

**Fire Watch.** The assignment of a person or persons to an area for the express purpose of notifying the fire department, the building occupants, or both of an emergency; preventing a fire from occurring; extinguishing small fires; or protecting the public from fire or life safety dangers.

**Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or Necessitating This Policy**

State of Rhode Island, Fire Safety Code

**Reason for Policy/Purpose**

To minimize the probability of fire or explosion, and resulting loss of life and property during occasions when a fire protection system is disabled, in whole or in part, for any reason.
Abstract
Requires that a fire watch be posted when a fire alarm, sprinkler system, or other critical life safety feature is wholly or partially impaired.

Related Procedures
Procedures for Policy on Fire Watches

Procedures Owner
Coordinator, Alarms

Policy Statement
When a fire protection system is impaired, the Coordinator, Fire & Life Safety shall determine fire watch requirements in accordance with the University’s Procedures for Policy on Fire Watches and applicable provisions of the Rhode Island Fire Safety Code. Such impairments may involve any of several scenarios:

- The fire alarm system is fully functional but the municipal connection is impaired, such that the fire department would not be automatically notified should the alarm be activated.
- A portion of the alarm system is impaired due to maintenance or malfunction, such that one or more system devices are offline.
- The fire alarm system is entirely out of service.
- Sprinkler, fire pump, smoke evacuation, or other such systems are impaired.
- Normal routes of emergency egress are temporarily blocked.
- All personnel assigned to fill a fire watch detail shall be properly qualified as defined herein and scheduled in concert with relevant collective bargaining procedures.

The Coordinator, Fire & Life Safety shall determine the specific parameters for each Fire Watch and may modify or adjust requirements based on the extent and the estimated duration of impairment and building occupancy.