



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

FPB POLICY D-05-4

**DISRUPTED SERVICE TO AUTOMATIC
FIRE PROTECTION, DETECTION, AND
ALARMS SYSTEMS
CFC 1001.5.3.1**

I. Purpose

This policy explains the requirements to provide notification of a fire when an automatic fire protection and/or detection system is not in service or in the event of an excessive number of accidental activations.

II. Scope

This policy shall include requirements in all buildings whether new or existing, where an automatic fire protection and/or detection system is installed, including buildings undergoing alteration, repair and demolition, but is not in service.

III. Definitions and Terms

- A. Fire Watch: A person trained as a site guard who is capable of notifying the Fire-Rescue Department and occupants of a fire. Fire watch may be Department personnel.
- B. Excessive: More than three (3) accidental activations in twelve (12) calendar months at the same premises, responded to by the fire department.
- C. Accidental: The activation of any alarm which results in the response of the fire department caused by the negligence or intentional misuse of the system by the owner or his employees, servants or agents; or caused by mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, improper design, insufficient or inappropriate maintenance, improper placement or component oversensitivity, or any other response for which the fire department personnel are unable to gain access to the premises for any reason, or are unable to determine the apparent cause of the alarm system; or any other activation not caused by heat, smoke or fire, exclusive of a non-controllable false alarm defined below.



- D. Non-controllable False Alarm: An alarm is considered a non-controllable false alarm if the alarm system is activated due to malicious causes beyond the control of the owner.

IV. Procedures

- A. The owner or their authorized representative shall immediately notify the Fire Communications Center at (858) 974-9891 and the Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Company Advisor at (619) 533-4400, any time an automatic fire protection or detection system is not in operation or in the event of an excessive number of accidental activation.
- B. Building occupants must be notified within 24 hours of the fire watch establishment.
- C. Any repair or corrective action shall be initiated immediately. After repair or corrective action is completed and the system is back in service, the Fire Communications Center, Fire Prevention Bureau and occupants shall be notified.
- D. A fire watch shall be provided when the system cannot be repaired in a timely manner (more than 24 hours) and/or the lack of protection creates a building or life safety hazard as determined by the Fire Marshal or his/her representative.

Exception: A fire watch shall be established immediately when fire protection, detection, and alarm systems are not in operation in high, life-risk occupancies such as hospitals, care facilities, schools, high-rise buildings and R-1 residential occupancies.

- E. The minimum level of fire guard service shall be one guard per floor in multistory buildings and one guard for each fire protection system zone in single story building. Additional guards assigned as fire watch may depend on the hazard and building design. The fire watch service will continue until the automatic fire protection or detection system is placed back in service.

Such individuals shall be provided with at least one approved means for notification of the fire department and their only duty shall be to perform constant patrols of the protected premises and keep watch for fires.

Promulgated by: _____

Date: _____