



## FIRE WATCH

**Fire Watch** according to the 2021 International Fire Code is defined as follows:

**A temporary measure intended to ensure continuous and systematic surveillance of a building or portion thereof by one more qualified individuals for the purposes of identifying and controlling fire hazards, detecting early signs of unwanted fire, raising an alarm of fire and notifying the fire department.**

2021 International Fire Code 901.7 states:

**Systems out of service.** Where a required fire protection system is out of service, the fire department and the fire code official shall be notified immediately and, where required by the fire code official, the building shall either evacuated or an approved Fire Watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire protection system has been returned to service.

Where utilized, Fire Watches shall be provided with not less than 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.

2021 International Fire Code 403.11.1 states:

**Fire Watch Personnel.** Where, in the opinion of the fire code official, it is essential for public safety in a place of assembly or any other place where people congregate, because of the number of persons, or the nature of the performance, exhibition, display, contest or activity, the owner, agent or lessee shall provide one or more Fire Watch personnel, as required and approved. Fire Watch personnel shall comply with Sections 403.11.1.1 and 403.11.1.2.

2021 International Fire Code 403.11.1.1 states:

**Duty Times.** Fire Watch personnel shall remain on duty while places requiring a Fire Watch are open to the public, or when an activity requiring a Fire Watch is being conducted.

2021 International Fire Code 403.11.1.2 states:

**Duties.** On-duty Fire Watch personnel shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Keep diligent watch for fires, obstructions to means of egress and other hazards.
2. Take prompt measures for remediation of hazards and extinguishment of fires that occur.
3. Take prompt measures to assist in the evacuation of the public from the structures.

2021 International Fire Code 3305.5.3 states:

**Fire Watch Records.** Fire watch personnel shall keep a record of all time periods of duty, including the log entry for each time the site was patrolled and each time a structure was entered and inspected. Records shall be made available for review by the fire code official upon request.

The City of Gaffney adopted the 2021 International Fire Code ( along with other 2021 codes ) and began implementing the 2021 Codes January 1, 2023. Therefore the Gaffney City Fire Department follows and supports them.

The Codes listed in this document are in place for Fire and Life Safety concerns, and the codes are to be upheld entirely.

For questions regarding Fire Watch please contact Gaffney City Fire Department.

Steps to follow while under Fire Watch.

1. Notify the Fire Department
2. Designate fire watch personnel (They should not have any other duties other than fire watch)
3. The designated fire watch personnel should check each area of the building or area affected by the out of service fire protection system every 30 minutes.
4. The designated fire watch personnel should document all issues noted and correct if possible (Ex. Removed obstruction from emergency exit.)
5. Notify others and call 911 in the event of a fire.
6. Document when the fire protection system is restore to normal operations and notify the fire department that the fire watch is complete.

A Fire Watch patrol of the building where the system is down should be performed every 30-60 minutes at a minimum.

