



FESHM 6014: Fire Watch

Revision History

Author	Description of Change	Revision No. & Date
William James	Revision 1, Some minor editorial changes were made.	Revision 1 FEBRUARY 2011



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FIRE WATCH

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Automatic fire detection and suppression systems are installed in most areas of Fermilab, offering varying levels of protection. Activation of these systems results in a response from the Fermilab Fire Department. It is important that such systems remain in service to provide adequate fire protection for life safety and property protection. On occasion, such systems may be temporarily disabled for reasons of new construction, modifications, or due to loss of power. In such cases it may be necessary for a Fire Watch to be established until such time that power has been restored or the disabled system brought back on-line. This chapter outlines the responsibilities and procedures to establish a Fire Watch.

2.0 REFERENCES

[FESHM 6030](#) Disablement of Fire Protection Systems

3.0 DEFINITIONS

After Hours – Monday through Friday between 3:30 PM and 7:00 AM, holidays, and weekends.

Automatic Fire Suppression Systems – sprinklers, Halon, foam, Carbon Dioxide, water mist, and dry and wet chemical systems.

Disablement – The process of shut-down or impairment of a fire protection system, or the documentation and notification of system or component failures.

Fire Detection Systems - smoke detectors, thermal detectors, ultra-violet flame detectors, manual pull stations, water flow detectors, etc, connected to a fire alarm control panel.

Fire Protection Engineer (FPE) - responsible for overseeing the overall implementation and oversight of the Fermilab Fire Protection Program from the ES&H Section.

Fire Systems Maintenance (FSM) Technician – individual trained in the inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection systems throughout the Laboratory (including Water Based Systems, Fire Alarm Components, and Special Systems). The FSM Technicians or delegated designees conduct the actual planned disablements.

Fire Watch – a person or persons designated to periodically or continually monitor a facility for potential fire emergencies when detection and/or suppression systems are impaired or disabled.



Impairment – The status of any component or portion of a fire detection/suppression system that is not 100% functional.

Long-Term Disablement – disablement of a fire detection/suppression system for greater than or equal to 48 hours.

Normal Work Hours - Monday through Friday between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM, excluding holidays.

Short-Term Disablement – disablement of a fire detection/suppression system for less than 48 hours.

(See [FESHM Chapter 6010](#) for additional definitions of Building Manager, Fire Protection Engineer, FIRUS, and Irregularity Report. See [FESHM Chapter 7010](#) for definitions of Task Manager and Construction Coordinator.)

4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Division/Section/Center Heads are responsible for assuring that when detection /suppression systems are disabled, a fire watch appropriate to the situation/facility is established. This responsibility must be communicated through the management levels to include Building Managers, Senior Safety Officers, Task Managers, Construction Coordinators, Service Coordinators, and designees.

4.2 Senior Safety Officer (SSO) shall implement a fire watch program for facilities that have lost power or has had the fire suppression/detection systems taken off-line following the procedures outlined in this chapter.

4.3 Facilities Engineering Services Section (FESS) FSM is responsible for

- Following the specific procedures outlined in [FESHM Chapter 6030](#) when disabling and re-enabling fire detection/suppression systems upon the proper request of personnel in the division/section, or in an emergency (if available).
- Documenting and distributing the Fire Detection/Suppression System Long Term Disablement Request Form to appropriate personnel.
- Delegating disablements to trained personnel by following the requirements in the “Delegated Disablement Procedures” section in [FESHM Chapter 6030](#).
- Training and instructing individuals in proper disablement procedures.

4.4 Business Services (BS) -Communications Center is responsible for making appropriate notifications of personnel in accordance with current Security procedures (#12.502) and the requirements of this chapter.

4.5 BS Fermilab Fire Department (FFD) shift officer is responsible for requesting disablement on an emergency basis where system failures occur or as a result of other off-hours problems.



4.6 ESH-Fire Protection Engineer (ESH-FPE) is responsible for reviewing all long term disablements, investigating unresolved disablements and reporting them to the ESH Section Head.

4.7 Task Managers, Construction Coordinators, and Service Coordinators are responsible for

- Managing disablement and re-enablement procedures during the course of a specific project.
- Planning for disablements and contacting FSM for instruction

5.0 FIRE WATCH

In the event a portion of the fire detection, protection or suppression system is rendered inoperative/disabled, a Fire-Watch may be required.

Upon notification that the fire detection, protection or suppression system is rendered inoperative for a facility, the Division/Section SSO will determine the need and level for a Fire Watch. If it is determined that a fire watch is required then **it shall be implemented** for the duration of the problem.

6.0 REQUIREMENTS

A fire watch requires a qualified person or persons in attendance during the times when fixed fire detection systems have been taken out of operation. The fire watch participants should be familiar with the operation of systems/operations in the building, capable of moving throughout the building and be able to notify emergency responders.

Fire Watchers must be familiar with alarm location and procedures for sounding an alarm in the event of a fire, and other life safety alarms (ODH, Hazardous Atmosphere, etc). The assignment of a person or persons to an area is 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.

Based on the size of the building, operations occurring within the building and the criticality of the building to Laboratory operations the solution to the Fire Watch issue may range from having Security periodically check the building during their tours through having Division/Section personnel physically inside the building until the problem has been fixed.

In planning for and assigning a Fire Watch, the following must be considered:

- Equipping individual with a flashlight and two-way radio or cell phone
- Providing a route and timetable for touring the facility
- Providing a check-in schedule with the Communications Center
- Providing a replacement for the Fire Watch after a set period of time



- Portable fire extinguisher training

NOTE: The use of Security personnel must be coordinated through the Security Chief at (x3414). There will be times that due to staffing shortages the Security Force will not be able to provide Fire Watch Duties.