

Excerpts from the City of Los Angeles Fire Code 2017

FIRE WATCH

A temporary measure intended to ensure continuous and systematic surveillance of a building or portion thereof by one or 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.

SECTION 916

FIRE WATCH

916.1. Scope.

This section shall set forth the requirements of a fire watch when the Chief determines that a building or premises presents a hazard to life or property as the result of a fire or other emergency, or when it is determined that any fire protection equipment or system is inoperable, defective, or has been taken out of service.

916.2. Authority to require fire watch.

The Chief may require implementation of a fire watch whenever it is deemed necessary by the Chief to assure minimum fire/life safety as regulated by this article. The Chief shall specify the number of fire watch personnel and duties to be performed.

916.2.1 Authority of the Chief to assign Department members.

Whenever the owner or person in charge does not provide fire watch personnel as required, the Chief shall have the authority to assign uniformed Department members until such time as required fire watch personnel are provided.

916.2.2 Fire watch maintained until safe.

A fire watch shall be maintained until such time that the Chief determines that the building or premises is safe from hazard to life or property, or when fire protection equipment or systems are restored to service.

916.2.3 Penalties and minimum fines.

Violation of Section 916.2 through 916.2.2 shall be subject to penalties and minimum fines as prescribed in Section 109.4.2 and Table 109.4

916.3. Responsibility for Instruction.

The owner, manager, or person in charge or control of the building or premises shall assign to the fire watch as many personnel as are required by the Chief and shall instruct fire watch personnel as to:

1. The procedure for notifying the Fire Department.
2. The area to be patrolled.
3. A method of alerting building occupants and an evacuation procedure.

Note: When two or more fire watch personnel are required, two-way radios may be required by the Fire Department to facilitate communication and evacuation.

4. A procedure shall be provided for reactivating sprinkler valves in the event of fire when the sprinkler system has been taken out of service and any other instruction required by the Chief.

916.4. Log book.

The owner, manager, or person in charge or control of the premises shall provide a log book which contains a directory of names, telephone numbers, and other information to assist in making emergency calls and calls to key management personnel, and which shall be used to record a history of patrol rounds. The log book shall be maintained on the premises and be available for inspection by the Department.

916.5 Specific duty requirements.

Assigned fire watch personnel shall:

1. Be thoroughly familiar with the area they are patrolling;
2. Perform patrol operations according to instructions from management;
3. Patrol their designated area at least once each half hour and
4. Make reports as instructed.

A written record of patrol rounds and any significant information shall be recorded in a logbook provided by management. Assigned fire watch personnel shall also relay any special orders or pertinent information to relief personnel and remain on duty until properly relieved.

Additional requirements for LAX:

Assigned fire watch personnel shall:

1. Know the terminal/building address.
2. Know the names of the various locations within the terminal/building.
3. Be supplied with a means for contacting emergency services.

SECTION 3304

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE

3304.5 Fire watch.

When required by the fire code official for building demolition, or building construction during working hours that is hazardous in nature, qualified personnel shall be provided to serve as an on-site fire watch. Fire watch personnel shall be provided with not less than one approved means for notification of the fire department and their sole duty shall be to perform constant patrols and watch for the occurrence of fire.