

NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION

Interpretation Number: 05-01

Date: 01 February 2007

Pamphlet Number: NFPA 101, 2000 ed.

Section(s): 9.6.1.8, 9.7.6.1

Comments:

Applies to all occupancies.

Question: Is a firewatch required when a fire alarm or fire sprinkler system is out of service for more than four hours in a 24-hour period?

Response:

An approved firewatch is required or the building must be evacuated until the impaired system is functional.

The approved firewatch shall contain the following:

1. The authority having jurisdiction and the local fire department shall be notified immediately,
2. The individual(s) conducting the firewatch shall have no other assigned duties,
3. The individual(s) conducting the firewatch shall be trained to recognize fire hazards, know the procedures for occupant and fire department notification and occupant evacuation,
4. The individual(s) conducting the firewatch has access to all portions of the building,
5. The individual(s) conducting the firewatch shall walk through the affected area(s) at intervals not exceeding 30 minutes, (this may be altered depending on the size of the building and with the approval of the authority having jurisdiction)

The facility emergency procedures manual shall include firewatch procedures so that all employees are familiar with the process. The firewatch procedures shall be available to the authority having jurisdiction.

Signature: 

Date: 02/01/07

Title: John E. Falgione , State of Nebraska Fire Marshal