

# CITY OF TOPEKA FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE WATCH PROCEDURES

A fire watch is a short-term, emergency measure intended to provide an acceptable level of life safety in a building that has an impaired fire safety system. **A fire watch is a compensatory measure only.** It is intended to allow continued occupancy of a building or facility that may not be safe for building occupants during the time period required for implementing appropriate changes or repairs. The purpose of the fire watch is to check **ALL** areas of the building on a regular basis for fire/life safety emergencies and then to alert the occupants to take appropriate action as early as possible.

Different occupancies have different levels of risk determined by the relative vulnerability of the occupants. Each facility shall establish and maintain a written fire watch policy.

## ***When Required***

A fire watch should be implemented **IMMEDIATELY** when certain conditions are discovered either by the facility or by authorities. A fire watch will be implemented **IMMEDIATELY** if deemed necessary by Topeka Fire Department personnel. Examples of when a fire watch may be required by the Topeka Fire Department include:

- Outage or significant impairment of the fire alarm signaling system
- Outage or significant impairment of the automatic fire suppression system
- Outage or significant impairment of the facility water supply
- Impairment of the building's exiting system NOT significant enough to warrant evacuation and shutdown of the building/facility

**If the above condition(s) are expected to exist for over 4 hours, or if conditions remain impaired for more than 4 hours in a 24 hour period, a formal Fire Watch must be initiated.**

When a Fire Watch has been deemed necessary, by any Topeka Fire Department personnel, and an emergency response is made to the building after Fire Watch initiation; personnel have the authority to require the facility to provide Fire Watch logs for compliance review.