



FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Firewatch

Purpose

One of the most effective ways in which the UCDH Fire Marshal's Office maintains the safety of the public, property, and the environment is through the use of programs designed to involve the efforts of the campus community in Fire Prevention. One such program is called a Firewatch. Initial determination of a Firewatch will be made by the UCDH Fire Marshal's Office. All individuals serving as a Firewatch must be trained and accepted by UCDH Fire Marshal's Office staff.

Definition

A Firewatch is an activity in which a qualified employee or designee will act as an agent of the UCDH Fire Marshal's Office to monitor and report incidents or activities that pose a threat to the safety of life and/or property. This is done by conducting a systematic tour of the building and surrounding grounds to ensure that no fire or other emergency has occurred. Not every situation requires an automatic Firewatch. A fire and life safety deficiency may warrant an Interim Life Safety Measure (ILSM). See Hospital P&P 1635 for ILSM guidelines. General reasons for a Firewatch to be activated are:

- Hot Work at a construction/remodel site, or in an occupied building.
- Occupied buildings with a temporarily impaired Fire Protection System (Fire Sprinkler), or Fire Detection System (Fire Alarm).
- An event or activity that will be using heat, flame, or other similar material/devices that may pose a hazard.

Duties

The duty of the person(s) assigned to the Firewatch is to develop an all-inclusive inspection route prior to an event or emergency, that will encompass a visit to all accessible areas/rooms and surrounding grounds in a logical sequence. The individual(s) must be observant of anything unusual, such as heat, smoke, or odors that may warrant further investigation or notification of emergency responders. The route should be walked at least once every 15 minutes (greater time intervals will require coordination with a UCDH Fire Marshal's Office representative) and a record kept identifying what was discovered during the walk. The records must be sent to UCDH Fire Marshal's Office daily.

Additionally, if a fire or other emergency is discovered, the appropriate emergency personnel are immediately notified by dialing 911 or activating the building's fire alarm system. If the building's fire alarm system is not operational and the building is occupied, the use of an air-horn type device for notifying occupants is recommended as long as the occupants have been notified of the change in emergency audibility *in advance*. The individual(s) serving as the Firewatch is/are reminded not to compromise their own safety.

For questions or assistance, please contact the UCDH Fire Marshal's Office at (916) 734-3036.