

<p style="text-align: center;">DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CODE BULLETIN OF INFORMATION</p> <p style="text-align: right;">F-2001</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">TITLE 4 — BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND OCCUPANCY CODE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TITLE 14 – ZONING CODE</p>
<p>SUBJECT OF BULLETIN:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIRE WATCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DURING CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION</p>	<p>REFERENCE CODE SECTION(S):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">F-3304; F-901.7</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ISSUED BY</p>	<p>ISSUE DATE</p>
<p>NAME:</p> <p>Elizabeth Baldwin, L&I Chief Code Official</p> <p>Captain Julian Sellers, PFD Chief Code Official</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">September 1, 2020</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 1 OF 3</p>

BACKGROUND

Buildings under construction are vulnerable to fire and are generally unprotected. Building protection systems have not yet been installed, sites are not secure, and ignition sources are common. Fires on construction sites pose an immediate threat to the surrounding community and may have long-term economic and environmental impacts.

Chapter 33 of the Philadelphia Fire Code provides provisions for fire safety during construction and demolition activity, including Fire Watch requirements, to reduce the risk of fire and associated losses.

This Code Bulletin outlines specific requirements for Fire Watch during construction and demolition active.

All active construction projects must comply with these requirements by November 1, 2020.

DEFINITIONS

COMBUSTIBLE CONSTRUCTION- Buildings classified as Type III, Type IV, or Type V in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Philadelphia Building Code.

FIRE WATCH- The assignment of one or more people trained in the use of portable fire extinguishers with the following responsibilities:

- Patrol the building monitoring for any signs of smoke, fire or some other abnormal condition;
- Notifying the fire department and building occupants of an emergency;
- Preventing fires from occurring by recognizing and taking prompt action to remove fire hazards;
- Protecting the public from fire or life safety dangers.

HEIGHT- The vertical distance from adjacent grade to the highest constructed floor or roof assembly, excluding penthouse or rooftop structures as defined in Section 1510 of the Philadelphia Building Code.

SITE SAFETY MANAGER- A competent person responsible for enforcing compliance with the Site Safety Plan. The Site Safety Manager may be a supervisory employee of the contractor required under Section 9-1004 or the Site Safety Manager designated on a major building project as required by Section A-1001.5 of the Philadelphia Administrative Code.

SITE SAFETY PLAN-A plan which shall include the details of the fire prevention program for the construction site:

- Name and contact information of the Site Safety Manager or designee responsible for fire prevention program;
- Training of the fire watch personnel;
- Procedures for reporting emergencies;
- Location of fire protection equipment, including portable fire extinguishers, standpipes, fire department connections, and fire hydrants;
- Fire Department access routes, during and after hours;
- Smoking and cooking policy, designated areas to be used when approved, and signage locations in accordance with Chapter 33 of the Philadelphia Fire Code;
- Location and safety considerations for temporary heating equipment;
- Hot work plan;
- Plans for control of combustible waste material;
- Locations and methods for storage and use of flammable and combustible liquids and other hazardous materials;
- Provisions for site security after hours, including but not limited to standard fencing and lock-out details, remote monitoring services and other technology, or live personnel;
- Emergency Egress plan, including location of exits/egress points;

POLICY

A Fire Watch shall be required under the following circumstances:

- A building's fire alarm, fire sprinkler, or fire suppression system is impaired, including planned impairments as required by Code Bulletin F-1601;
- Hot work activity occurs within the building;
- Combustible, new construction exceeds 40' in height or includes an aggregate area exceeding 50,000 square feet;
- Other hazardous activity occurs, as determined by the Site Safety Manager, Fire Code Official, or the courts.

At a minimum, a Fire Watch shall be maintained at the following times:

- During an emergency or planned impairment of a fire protection system;
- During and at least 30 minutes after the conclusion of hot work activity;
- During non-working hours from the time that combustible construction reaches a height above 40' or an area of 50,000 square feet until the fire alarm or fire suppression system has been certified.

A Fire Watch shall meet the following criteria:

- The primary duty of fire watch personnel shall be to perform constant patrols and watch for the occurrence of fire. The combination of fire watch duties and security duties is acceptable.
- Fire watch personnel shall be trained in all duties and responsibilities outlined in the Site Safety Plan.
- Fire watch personnel shall be provided with at least one approved means for notification to the Fire Department, including but not limited to a cellular phone.
- An adequate number of fire watch personnel shall be on duty to ensure that all areas of a property are inspected every 30 minutes. In multi-story buildings there shall be at least one fire watch for every five floors.
- In the event that the fire watch observes smoke or fire, the Fire Department shall be notified immediately.
- Maintain a record of all time periods of duty, including the log entry each time the site was patrolled, and each time a structure was entered and inspected. Records shall be made available for review by the Fire Code Official upon request.

The Site Safety Plan shall be reviewed during the initial meeting with the building inspector. Any changes to the plan shall be documented and made available for review by the building inspector or fire code official upon request.