



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY**

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner

***Division of Fire Safety***  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal



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## **Fire Watch Guidelines**

When required by the fire chief or state fire marshal's office for building demolition and/or when there are situations that compromise the safety of the community, the fire chief or state fire marshal may require on-site personnel designated solely for fire watch purposes. The level of coverage shall be based upon the following guidelines; however, circumstances may warrant modifications at the discretion of the fire chief or state fire marshal:

### **LEVELS OF COVERAGE**

<b>LEVEL I:</b>	CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF AFFECTED AREA FOR SIGNS OF SMOKE OR FIRE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF NOTIFYING EMERGENCY SERVICES (DIALING 9-1-1)	ONE OR MORE APPROVED EMPLOYEES OF THE BUILDING OWNER; SECURITY GUARDS; OR QUALIFIED FIRE PERSONNEL
<b>LEVEL II:</b>	CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF AFFECTED AREA FOR SIGNS OF SMOKE OR FIRE FOR THE PURPOSE OF NOTIFYING EMERGENCY SERVICES AND ASSISTING WITH EVACUATION	ONE OR MORE APPROVED REPRESENTATIVES OR EMPLOYEES OF THE BUILDING OWNER; SECURITY GUARDS; OR QUALIFIED FIRE PERSONNEL – THESE INDIVIDUALS MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH THE EXITING SYSTEMS, FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS, AND EVACUATION PLANS RELATIVE TO THE EFFECTED AREA.
<b>LEVEL III:</b>	CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF EFFECTED AREA FOR SIGNS OF SMOKE OR FIRE FOR THE PURPOSES OF NOTIFYING EMERGENCY SERVICES, ASSISTING WITH EVACUATION, AND FIRE EXTINGUISHMENT / HAZARD MITIGATION	ONE OR MORE QUALIFIED FIRE PERSONNEL NOTE: AN EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MAY BE REQUIRED.

### ***Assembly Occupancies***

Loss of a required fire alarm and/or fire sprinkler system prohibiting the use of the effected structure for large events – Level II or III

Special circumstances such as occupant load increase, nature of performance, EXHIBITION, DISPLAY, CONTEST OR ACTIVITY – LEVEL III

***Business/Office Occupancies***

Loss of a required fire alarm and/or fire sprinkler system – Level I as determined by the Fire Chief or State Fire Marshal – NOTE: All building occupants must be notified that the system/systems are out of service.

***Educational Occupancies***

Loss of a required fire alarm and/or fire sprinkler system – Level II while the building is occupied

NOTE: All staff must be notified of the failure.

***Industrial Occupancies***

Loss of any required fire alarm, fire sprinkler, and/or special system – Discretion of the Fire Chief or State Fire Marshal based upon the nature of hazard

***Hazardous Occupancies***

Loss of any required fire alarm, fire sprinkler, or special system – Level III depending on the nature of hazard as determined by the Fire Chief or State Fire Marshal

***Institution/Healthcare Occupancies***

Loss of any required fire alarm, fire sprinkler, and/or special system – Level I or higher at the discretion of the Fire Chief or State Fire Marshal based upon the nature of hazard.

***Mercantile/Retail sales Occupancies***

Loss of required fire alarm and/or fire sprinkler system – Level I

***Residential/Hotel/Dormitory Occupancies***

Loss of any required fire alarm, fire sprinkler, and/or special system – Level I or higher at the discretion of the Fire Chief or State Fire Marshal based upon the nature of hazard

***Storage Occupancies***

Loss of required fire alarm and/or fire sprinkler system – Stocked but no occupants: Level I; during operations – Level II; Hazardous Materials Permit required – Level III

Note - For all fire watch activities that involve fire personnel and/or equipment, fees may be assessed as set forth by local or state authority.