



Chico Fire – Rescue

Fire Protection System Impairments

The following guidelines are intended to provide fire protection system owners with direction to comply with code requirements during system shut down i.e. impairment. Fire protection systems, including fire sprinklers and fire alarm systems, may need to be shut down either for planned service or maintenance or on an emergency basis. In either case the California Fire Code has certain minimum standards that must be met during a planned or unplanned system shut down.

SYSTEM OWNERS ARE ADVISED TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THEIR INSURANCE CARRIERS OR OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO SEE IF ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE ACTIONS ARE REQUIRED.

If a fire protection system is shut down, the building owner shall establish an IMPAIRMENT COORDINATOR. In the absence of a specific designee, the owner shall be considered the impairment coordinator. The impairment coordinator is responsible for complying with code requirements, making all required notifications, and coordinating actions to return the system to full service.

Upon system shut down, the Fire Code states the building shall be evacuated OR an approved FIRE WATCH shall be established. Where utilized, a fire watch shall be provided with at least one approved means of notification to the fire department and THEIR ONLY DUTY SHALL BE TO PERFORM CONSTANT PATROLS FOR THE PROTECTED PROPERTY AND KEEP WATCH FOR FIRES. The fire watch may be designated by the building owner or staff or provided by a private security company.

SYSTEM OWNERS ARE ADVISED TO CHECK WITH THEIR INSURANCE COMPANY OR OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO SEE IF A FIRE WATCH IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SITUATIONS WHETHER OR NOT THE BUILDING IS OCCUPIED (PROPERTY PROTECTION).

The impairment coordinator shall be responsible for verifying that all of the following procedures have been implemented:

- The extent and duration of the system shut down have been determined.
- The fire department has been notified (Chico Police/Fire dispatch 530-895-4911)
- The insurance carrier, the alarm company, the building owner/manager and other stakeholders have been notified.
- The building is evacuated or a fire watch has been established.
- The supervisors/personnel in the affected area have been notified (if the building is not evacuated).
- The areas or buildings involved have been inspected and the increased risks determined.
- If required by the fire code official, impairment tag(s) are placed to indicate the system or portion thereof is out of service.
- For planned system impairment: All tools, equipment, and personnel are assembled on site to minimize impairment time.

Upon **system restoration** the impairment coordinator shall be responsible for verifying the following:

- Necessary inspections and tests have been conducted to verify the affected systems are operational.
- The fire department, fire alarm company, insurance carrier, building owner, and other stakeholders are notified the system is restored.
- Supervisors and personnel are advised protection is restored.
- Impairment tags are removed.

Designated Fire Watch: _____

Fire Department Notified: Date _____ Time _____ Restoration Date _____ Time _____

Insurance Notified: Date _____ Time _____ Restoration Date _____ Time _____

Ins Co. Representative Name: _____ Phone Number _____

NOTE References are to the 2016 California Fire Code section 901