

New Orleans Fire Department

Fire Watch Program Overview

The following information is provided to describe the procedures for firewatch services.

1. The New Orleans Fire Department enforces the IFC International Fire Code 2006 edition as amended and adopted by the N.O. City Council as Ordinance No. 22958 M.C.S.; approved and signed by the Mayor on January 24, 2008 referred to herein as the “Code”.
2. The “Code” defines “Firewatch Personnel” as, “Uniformed New Orleans Fire Department personnel subject to the Fire Official’s orders at all times when so employed. The term “firewatch personnel” shall be synonymous with “firewatch,” “standby personnel,” “standby firefighter,” “standby firewatch” or similar term.
3. There are many references within the code where certain activities require a firewatch. Example: inoperable fire protection systems, pyrotechnic displays, usage of open flames within an assembly, operation/storage of vehicles within an assembly, and certain activities not expressly stated in the “Code” but when in the opinion of the Fire Official a firewatch may be required.
4. Once a firewatch is deemed necessary by the Fire Official for an activity, the firewatch “Detail Coordinator” in accordance with the “Firewatch Detail Hiring Matrix” determines the rank and quantity of personnel required for the firewatch.
5. The Detail Coordinator prepares a “Letter of Agreement” between the organization/ representative needing the firewatch and the NOFD representative (Chief of Fire Prevention or his designee).
6. Once the “Letter of Agreement” is signed, the “Detail Coordinator” forwards a firewatch “Work Order” to the Deputy’s Office. Utilizing a rotation list as set forth in the current “Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of N.O. and The N.O.F.F. Association Local 632” the Deputy’s Office hires the specified fire personnel for the firewatch services.
7. In order to maintain 100% transparency, all pertinent information (detail name, location, contact person and their phone number, date, hours worked, member hired, name of officer doing the hiring etc) is entered into the “Detail Tracking Sheet” which is posted on the City intranet and retained for future reference and is accessible for viewing by all NOFD personnel.
8. The personnel hired for the firewatch services picks-up a copy of the “Work Order” and a fire department radio then reports to the site to perform firewatch services as stipulated on the “Work Order”.
9. Fire personnel are paid according to the following rates of pay as stipulated within the current Collective Bargaining Agreement: Firefighter - \$20.00/hr; Operator - \$22.00/hr; Captain/Inspector - 25.00/hr; Chief - \$28.00/hr
10. A 10% Firewatch Administrative Fee payable to the City of New Orleans is charged for each required firewatch as per fee schedule listed in the “Code”.
11. It is the responsibility of the business/organization needing the firewatch services to provide and process the IRS 1099 forms for the firewatch personnel.