



MCFRS Chief Officers Annual Meeting 2018

Office of the Fire Marshal
Rick Merck



2018 Line Officers Meetings



Fire Safety Inspections

Fire Rescue is the “eyes and ears” of Fire Code Compliance

Priority Of Inspections

- Known system *impairments* (Frequently received from Fire Rescue)
- Agency-required inspections
- Existing multi-family dwellings
- Existing occupancies for new permits





Fire Protection Systems

What is an impairment?

- Impairments: any time a **system** will not function as needed during an event
 - Malfunctions, nuisance or false alarms
 - Damaged systems
 - Temporary shut downs





Fire Protection Systems

What are some common fire protection **systems**?

- Fire alarms
- Sprinklers
- Kitchen hood and duct suppression
- Chemical agents
- **Bi-directional amplification**
- Smoke control
- Fire wall and door assemblies





On-Duty Fire Inspector – Call Out Program

Who is on-duty?

- All inspectors currently on a 12 day rotation
- On for 24 hours
- Name, Inspector number, and Phone number posted in Operations Support calendar
- Some live outside the radio coverage area





On-Duty Fire Inspector

- Consulting with the Inspector is best
- Notification via ECC or #dps.fcc is OK
- On-duty Inspector checks the #dps.fcc email each morning
- If building management is actively working on repair, the Inspector can usually handle by phone





On-Duty Fire Inspector

What to call for?

- System impairments
 - system will not work when needed
- Malfunctions, nuisance or false alarms
- Damaged systems
- Temporary shut downs/water supply issues





On-Duty Fire Inspector



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On-Duty Fire Inspector

What to call for?

- Suppression system activations
 - Commercial sprinkler systems (righteous or accidental)
 - Kitchen hood and duct systems
 - Chemical suppression systems





On-Duty Fire Inspector

Call for Inspector to come to the scene:

- Egress issues should be handled immediately
 - Blocked or locked exits
 - Exits that are difficult to see or use
- Capacity
 - Higher than expected occupant load
- Extreme fuel loads
 - Higher than expected fuel load



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On-Duty Fire Inspector

When to call?

- The sooner the better.
 - FCC does not typically self-dispatch
 - If you feel a fire watch may be necessary
 - Inspector information is available on the Operations Support calendar





On-Duty Fire Inspector

When to call?

- Any fire which that will require permits for repair:
electric / gas / plumbing





Discussion – Fire Watches

What is the purpose of a fire watch? Is a fire watch a good substitute for a sprinkler system? Can a person performing the fire watch be a good substitute for an alarm or dialer?





Questions?



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Thank you!

Office of Fire Code Compliance

Office of the Fire Marshal

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/permittingservices



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