Fire Protection Impairment FAQ’s

1. **What is a fire protection impairment?**

   A fire protection impairment is the shutdown, in whole or in part, of a fire protection system. Systems include fire alarm, sprinkler, standpipe, alternate fire suppression system or fire pump.

2. **What does submittal of a fire protection impairment achieve?**

   Submittal of the impairment e-form notifies essential personnel of the need to perform work on a UW Madison life safety system. However, submittal of a fire protection impairment e-form does not serve as the only notification needed.

   If the fire alarm system or water-based fire suppression system needs to have any portion of it disabled, you will need to contact your UW Project Manager. The project manager will have to create a work order and funding with the Physical Plant Electrical or Plumbing Shop to have the requested fire protection system disabled or shut down. UW Physical Plant Electrician (608) 263-3333 or Plumbing Shop (608) 262-9633.

3. **Does the entire fire protection impairment e-form need to be filled out?**

   Yes. Without a complete form submittal, building safety and life safety could be jeopardized due to a delayed response in the event of a fire emergency. Accurate contact information for those performing work (names and numbers) with building address and name is essential.

4. **Who is responsible for submitting a fire protection impairment e-form?**

   Fire protection impairment forms shall be submitted by the person (or work unit) performing the work. Coordination for submittal of impairment e-form shall include the following FP&M departments; UW Electric Shop, UW Plumbing Shop, Project Managers (Capital Planning & Development or Campus Renovation Services) and Environment Health & Safety (EH&S).

5. **Who is automatically notified when a fire protection impairment e-form is submitted?**

   EH&S – Fire & Life Safety has built the fire protection impairment e-form to automatically notify the following parties whenever an impairment form is submitted.
6. **Who needs be added (in addition to the automatically notified personnel) to all fire protection impairment e-form notifications?**

   Up to five additional personnel can be added into a fire protection impairment e-form. The UW Project Manager and the Facility Manager must be included.

7. **Who can disable a UW Madison life safety system?**

   Only trained and certified UW Madison personnel can disable a UW Madison fire protection life safety system.

8. **Should UW Police Department Dispatch be called even though UWPD is notified through the fire protection impairment e-form?**

   Yes, UWPD shall always be called (pre and post impairment). UWPD dispatch number is 608-264-2677 (608-264-COPS).

9. **Can a fire protection impairment extend longer than a normal workday?**

   Coordination with EH&S – Fire & Life Safety and other FP&M departments will review the circumstances for an extended impairment and will assist in determining necessity. Too many variables to be considered for a FAQ.

10. **Why does EH&S – Fire & Life Safety set a maximum 48-hour window for fire protection impairment submittal?**

    Allowing a small window of time provides the opportunity to review and ask questions about the need for an impairment. This allows for transparency of roles and responsibilities.

11. **Can Hot Work be performed while a fire protection system is impaired?**

    All Hot Work activity shall be coordinated with EH&S – Fire & Life Safety. There are too many variables to be considered for a FAQ. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

12. **What is a fire protection impairment fire watch?**

    A fire watch is a temporary measure to ensure continuous surveillance of a building or portion of a building affected by a fire protection impairment. Surveillance shall be performed by a dedicated individual(s) for the purpose to detect early signs of unwanted fire. Fire watcher(s) shall have a means to notify UWPD, MFD and building occupants.

13. **When is an impairment fire watch required?**

    A fire watch is needed whenever a building or portion of a building’s fire protection system no longer provides a level of equivalent safety due to an impairment. Consultation with EH&S – Fire & Life Safety to review situation is required.
14. **What is a fire protection impairment tag?**

A fire protection impairment tag is used to indicate a system or system component has been removed from service; a visual identifier for first responders.

15. **Where can I obtain fire protection impairment tags?**

Fire protection impairment tags are provided by EH&S – Fire & Life Safety, free of charge.

16. **Where shall fire protection impairment tags be placed?**

Fire protection impairment tags shall be placed at the following locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water-based fire protection impairment</th>
<th>Fire alarm &amp; detection impairment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire department connections (FDC)</td>
<td>Fire alarm panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main sprinkler riser</td>
<td>Annunciator panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control value(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire pump (if impacted)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire alarm panel</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

17. **Assistance with fire protection impairment e-form, Hot Work and fire watch forms.**

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**Impairment Quick Links**

[https://ehs.wisc.edu/fire-life-safety/fire-protection/](https://ehs.wisc.edu/fire-life-safety/fire-protection/)