



Environment, Health & Safety

FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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.

Madison Fire Department
Jeff Schiller (EH&S)
Don Ties (UW Electric Shop)
Physical Plant Customer Service
Impairment form submitter

University of Wisconsin Police Department
John Rindfleisch (EH&S)
Jim Krause (UW Plumbing Shop)
Marcella Otter (UW Plumbing Shop)

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 Manger 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.

Water-based fire protection impairment

Fire department connections (FDC)
Main sprinkler riser
Control valve(s)
Fire pump (if impacted)
Fire alarm panel

Fire alarm & detection impairment

Fire alarm panel
Annunciator panel

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-uw-impairment-form/>

<https://ehs.wisc.edu/fire-life-safety/fire-protection-uw-impairment-fire-watch-form/>