



Nuisance Fire Alarm Avoidance Plan

Purpose: To prevent unwanted or accidental fire alarm activations during work activities that may generate smoke, dust, heat, or other by-products that could trigger the fire detection systems. This plan ensures business continuity, life safety, and compliance with fire codes and insurance requirements.

Pre-Work Environmental Assessment

Objective: Identify potential alarm triggers before work begins.

Checklist:

- ☐ Conduct site walk-through with facility staff or safety personnel
- ☐ Identify nearby smoke, heat, beam, air sampling detectors, or water flow devices (if fire sprinkler work is to be conducted)
- ☐ If Sprinkler Work is to be conducted, is this facility backed up with a fire pump?
- ☐ If yes, ensure that protocols are in place to avoid fire pump running during work
- ☐ Determine if work involves heat, smoke, dust, aerosols, or fumes
- ☐ Flag high-risk zones and document findings

Coordination with Facility Management

Objective: Ensure proper control of the fire alarm system during work.

Checklist:

- ☐ Notify facility manager or fire safety officer
- ☐ Determine if devices need to be disabled, bypassed, or covered
- ☐ Ensure only qualified personnel interact with the Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP)
- ☐ Log all device changes and post signage at the FACP
- ☐ Keep manual pull stations and notification appliances active unless approved

Communication with Monitoring Company

Objective: Prevent false dispatches and fines.

Checklist:

- ☐ Contact central station before work begins
- ☐ Provide facility name, address, nature of work, duration, and contact info
- ☐ Request system be placed in “test” or “maintenance” mode
- ☐ Confirm reactivation after work is complete

Fire Watch Protocol (if required): Qualified Person

Objective: Maintain life safety during system impairments.

When Required: Detection or notification systems disabled for >4 hours in 24 hours and if mandated by AHJ or insurance carrier

Checklist:

- ☐ Assign trained personnel to patrol affected areas
- ☐ Maintain fire watch log (every 30–60 minutes)
- ☐ Ensure fire watch has extinguisher access and emergency communication

Vendor and Technician Responsibilities

Objective: Help with Training, Support and Guidance for personnel.

Checklist:

- ☐ Follow this plan before starting work - Take notes or pictures of Fire Alarm System Status prior to work commencing
- ☐ Coordinate with facility for device isolation or protection
- ☐ Never silence or reset alarms without authorization
- ☐ Use containment methods (e.g., curtains, barriers, ventilation) to reduce triggers



AHJ and Insurance Notification (for prolonged impairments)

When to Notify:

- System impaired >4 hours
- Any Sprinkler zone or system wide protection system being drained or shut down
- Multiple zones/buildings affected
- Required by code or insurance policy

Checklist:

- ☐ Notify AHJ and/or insurance carrier
- ☐ Provide scope, mitigation measures, and restoration timeline

Consulting the AHJ for Guidance

When to Notify:

- Unusual work scenarios
- Large-scale projects
- When burn permits (welding, soldering etc.) are issued or mandated
- Long-term system modifications
- All work including open flame, fireworks, smoke/fog effects, or similar

Checklist:

- ☐ Contact local fire marshal or prevention office
- ☐ Request pre-work consultation or submit hot work permit
- ☐ Document guidance received

Post-Work Reinstatement Procedures

Objective: Restore full fire protection and system integrity.

Checklist:

- ☐ Clean area of residual dust, fumes, or heat
- ☐ Remove protective covers/barriers
- ☐ Re-enable all disabled devices/zones
- ☐ Reset FACP and confirm normal system status. (Take notes or pictures ensuring system is back to existing conditions from Vendor & Technician Responsibilities stage)
- ☐ Notify monitoring company that system is back online
- ☐ Document restoration in impairment log

Documentation and Accountability

Checklist:

- ☐ Pre-work assessments
- ☐ Device disablement logs
- ☐ Monitoring company communications
- ☐ Fire watch logs (if applicable)
- ☐ AHJ/insurance notifications
- ☐ Post-work restoration records
- ☐ Database Collection of all Activations (for analysis and change)

Summary Checklist (Quick Reference)

TASK	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COMPLETED
Pre-work assessment	Vendor & Facility	☐
Alarm device coordination	Facility	☐
Monitoring company notified	Facility	☐
Fire watch assigned (if needed)	Facility	☐
AHJ/Insurance notified (if needed)	Facility	☐
Work completed safely	Vendor	☐
System restored to normal	Vendor & Facility	☐
Monitoring company re-notified	Facility	☐
Documentation filed	Facility	☐

