

# A Campus Fire Safety Message from



Homeland Security  
and Emergency Services

Fire Prevention  
and Control

## System Impairments

§F901.7 of the Fire Code of New York State states: “Where a required fire protection system is out of service, ... an approved fire watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shut down until the fire protection system has been returned to service.”

While the Fire Code doesn't intend for each occupant to receive a nifty watch - it does expect someone to be assigned the responsibility to act as a human fire detection system. Often colleges and universities will delegate this role to campus public safety.

There are a few exceptions to the fire watch requirement, but they are for Code Enforcement

Officials to grant, and are not automatically allowed. The Code also calls for the assignment of an “impairment coordinator” - someone who will be responsible for monitoring the outage and ensuring that the system returns to full service. Their duties are further outlined in the subsections of §F901.7.

OFPC is happy to assist any college or university develop a plan to deal with fire protection system outages. For more information, contact the nearest regional office of the Bureau of Fire Prevention.



***Are you ready for  
a system outage?***

*§F901.7 Systems out of service. Where a required fire protection system is out of service, the fire department and the code enforcement official shall be notified immediately, and the building shall either be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shut down until the fire protection system has been returned to service.*