QuickSheet

False Alarms During Construction

Introduction

False alarms are disruptive to the teaching and research mission of the university and contribute to a dangerous complacency in occupants, who may be slower to evacuate in an actual emergency. Contractors and construction managers can help prevent false alarms by taking the following measures prior to and during construction. A pre-construction meeting specifically for false alarms should be conducted to discuss preventative measures.

Fire Watch Requirements

Contact the EHS office at 910.521.6792 to determine if a fire watch will be required while the fire alarm devices are impaired. The contractor may serve as fire watch in some cases.

Discuss Project Related False Alarms

If the project has caused a false alarm, the incident must be reviewed and measures taken to prevent reoccurrence. This discussion should take place at the regular project construction meeting.

Temporary Fire Partitions and Smoke Barriers

Review bid documents and specifications to establish what types of temporary fire partition and dust barrier measures are necessary for the specific job site. Barriers should be erected and inspected prior to any demolition.

Temporary Impairment/Removal of Devices

If a dust or steam producing activity cannot be avoided, assess the proximity of fire detection in the area and confer with the EHS office at 910.521.6792 and the alarm technician to identify which devices could be removed, bagged or otherwise disabled. Duct detectors and other devices that may be hidden can be identified through record drawings.

Placing Systems in Service

For new buildings or renovations, the fire alarm system should not be placed in service until the building is cleaned and painted or other dust producing activities completed.

All smoke detector covers should be removed prior to placing the system in service.