

Section for Long Term Care
Regulation
Provider Meeting, Fall 2017

Fire Watch/Fire Drills

- ▶ Discuss the requirements for conducting a fire watch in all levels of care
 - When to initiate a Fire Watch
 - How to conduct a Fire Watch
 - Requirements addressing documentation of a Fire Watch
 - Survey/Inspection protocols

Fire Watch/Fire Drills

- ▶ Discuss the requirements regarding Fire Drills
 - Varied times and conditions (Certified only)
 - Silent Drill
 - Appropriate documentation

Fire Watch/Fire Drills

- ▶ K348
 - When the Fire Alarm is not functioning properly
- ▶ K353
 - When the Sprinkler system is not functioning
- ▶ Staff must initiate a Fire Watch when either system is out of service for four hours
 - Example: Service goes out at 8:00 AM, facility must begin Fire Watch at noon

Fire Watch/Fire Drills

- ▶ How to conduct a Fire Watch in all levels of care:
 - A designated individual(s) with no other assigned duties performing continuous walking rounds
 - Example: If rounds are routinely every 15 minutes and staff complete in 10 minutes, staff are required to begin rounds again
 - Fire Watch is conducted in all areas of the building
 - Resident rooms, attics, basement, boiler rooms, etc.
 - Must enter every area to observe for signs (smoke, flame) of fire

Fire Watch/Fire Drills

- ▶ Documentation:
 - Staff must record the start time of each fire watch
 - Fire watch must be continuous
 - Staff must initial each entry
 - Procedure must be outlined in facility policy
- ▶ Additional policies affecting Certified facilities
 - When will fire watch will be started
 - Who will be contacted and their contact information
 - Maximum amount of time for a fire watch tour
 - Water outage will render the sprinkler system inoperable

Fire Drills

- ▶ When to conduct
 - Must be conducted at least monthly
 - Each shift must include a Fire Drill every quarter
- Example:
 - Day Shift -January
 - When would the facility be required to conduct a Fire Drill on the day shift again?
- If a facility only has two shifts per day—they still must conduct monthly drill

Fire Drills

- ▶ Varied Times apply to certified facilities only
 - CMS defines 'varied' as one hour before or after another drill on that same shift (for the entire year)
 - Example: During the day shift in January, a fire drill is conducted at 10:00 A.M.
 - What times should be excluded from the remainder of the year?
 - Varied times includes different day of the week
- Varied times includes different weeks in the month

Silent Drills

- ▶ A silent drill is a simulated drill conducted usually to avoid waking residents.
 - Silent drills can be conducted between 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.
 - The purpose is to drill/practice causing minimal disruption to sleeping resident
 - Facility should develop their own policy/procedure for silent drill
 - A fire alarm test must be conducted within 24 hours of a silent or simulated drill
 - Staff must test all doors, alarms, and contact the monitoring company to ensure they received the facility signal

Fire Drills

- Documentation
 - Staff must record...

Questions?
