

Life Safety Code Updates

Fall Provider Meeting 2018

Department of Health and Senior Services
Section for Long-Term Care Regulation

Most Frequently Cited

- ▶ A question that is often asked is which deficiencies rise to the highest level?
 - ▶ Fire Alarm-Notification (K343)
 - ▶ Sprinkler Systems-Out of Service (K354)
 - ▶ Fire Alarm System-Out of Service (K346)

- ▶ There has been at least one IJ citation issued for the above listed deficiencies in recent months.



Fire Alarm-Notification (K343)

- Positive alarm sequence in accordance with 9.6.3.4 are permitted in buildings protected throughout by a sprinkler system. Occupant notification is provided automatically in accordance with 9.6.3 by audible and visual signals. In critical care areas, visual alarms are sufficient. The fire alarm system transmits the alarm automatically to notify emergency forces in the event of a fire. 19.3.4.3, 19.3.4.3.1, 19.3.4.3.2, 9.6.4, 9.7.1.1(1).



Fire Alarm-Notification (K343), cont.

- The fire alarm monitoring company did not receive the signal from the facility's fire alarm system.
- The trouble light on the fire alarm panel that had been initiated by the disrupted telephone system was not addressed immediately.

Sprinkler Systems-Out of Service (K354)

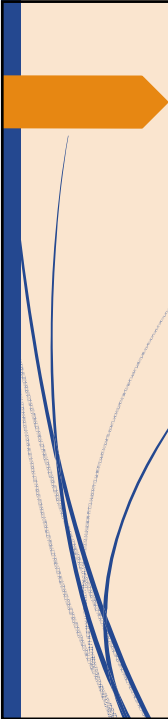
- Where the sprinkler system is impaired, the extent and duration of the impairment has been determined, areas or buildings involved are inspected and risks are determined, recommendations are submitted to management or designated representative, and the fire department and other authorities having jurisdiction have been notified. Where the sprinkler system is out of service for more than ten (10) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period, the building or portion of the building affected are evacuated or an approved fire watch is provided until the sprinkler system has been returned to service. 18.3.5.1, 19.3.5.1, 9.7.5, 15.5.2 (NFPA 25).

19 CSR 30-85.022 (11)(E)

- When a sprinkler system is to be out-of-service for more than four (4) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period, the facility shall immediately notify the Department and local fire authority and implement an approved fire watch in accordance with NFPA 101, 2000 edition, until the sprinkler system has returned to full service. I/II

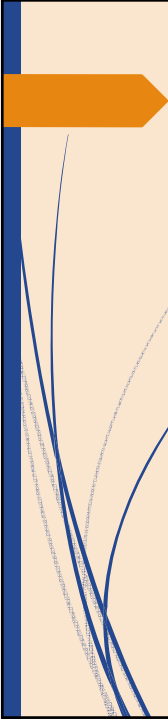
Sprinkler Systems-Out of Service (K354) cont.

- A fire watch or evacuation was not started timely when the sprinkler system went out of service.
- Staff cannot have any other assigned duties during a fire watch (this applies to fire watches for both the sprinkler and fire alarm systems).



Fire Alarm System-Out of Service (K346)

- Where required fire alarm system is out of services for more than four (4) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified, and the building shall be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all parties left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire alarm system has been returned to service. 9.6.1.6 .



Fire Alarm System-Out of Service (K346) cont.

- A complete continuous fire watch was not started when the alarm system did not function properly.
- The problem with the fire alarm system was not corrected immediately after the staff identified the problem.
- The facility did not notify the local fire department and/or the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) when the fire alarm system did not function properly.
- When a facility has a problem with their main telephone line(s), this could effect the fire alarm system.
- The facility should follow its policy on fire watches including what steps will be taken if the cause or extent of a trouble signal on the fire alarm panel is unknown.



Door Inspections

- Maintenance staff should know which doors are fire doors and which doors are smoke barrier doors.
- All fire doors are required to have an inspection per NFPA 80. These must be conducted by an individual who is qualified with specific knowledge of fire doors.
- Smoke doors are required to be thoroughly checked annually by the facility staff to ensure they function properly and do not have gaps.
 - Smoke barrier doors must also be checked monthly (with the fire alarm system).



Semiannual Fire Alarm Inspection

NFPA 72, 2010 edition – Table 14.3.1

- The table outlines the testing components and the frequency.
- The annual and semiannual fire alarm system tests must be completed by a certified person.



Cell Phone Lines on Fire Alarms

- ▶ Cellular phone lines may be used for some Fire Alarm Systems.
- ▶ To ensure your system will be compliant if a cellular line is used; you may contact the engineers.
- ▶ Not all alarm systems are allowed to have a cellular line instead of a land/VoIP line.



Emergency Preparedness

- ▶ Every facility must have an emergency preparedness program.
- ▶ The four core elements must be included:
 - ▶ Risk Assessment and Planning
 - ▶ Policies and Procedures
 - ▶ Communication Plan
 - ▶ Testing and Training
- ▶ Every facility is required to have at least one community based all-hazards approach drill or an actual emergency, or the justification why they could not participate in a drill.
- ▶ If justification is provided, the facility may complete a facility drill.
- ▶ A tabletop must also be completed.

