



FIREWATCH

One of the most effective ways in which the UC Davis Fire Department maintains the safety of the public, property, and the environment is through the use of programs designed to involve the efforts of the campus community in Fire Prevention. One such program is called a Firewatch. Should an unforeseen or anticipated emergency occur, University employees can assume the position of Firewatch for their respective buildings or occupancies. Initial determination of a Firewatch will be made by the UC Davis Fire Department. All individuals serving as a Firewatch must be trained and accepted by UC Davis Fire Department personnel.

The main focus of a Firewatch is to conduct a systematic tour of the building and surrounding grounds to ensure that no fire or other emergency has occurred. Additionally, if a fire or other emergency is discovered, the appropriate emergency personnel are immediately notified by dialing **9-1-1 (530-752-1234 from a cellular phone)** or activating the building's fire alarm system. If the building's fire alarm system is not operational and the building is occupied, the use of an air-horn type device for notifying occupants is recommended as long as the occupants are notified of the emergency audibility change *in advance*. The individual(s) serving as the Firewatch is/are reminded not to compromise their own safety.

The duty of the person(s) assigned to the Firewatch is to develop an all-inclusive inspection route prior to an emergency, that will encompass a visit to all accessible areas/rooms and surrounding grounds in a logical sequence. The individual(s) must be observant of anything unusual, such as heat, smoke, or odors that may warrant further investigation or notification of emergency responders.

One method of accomplishing this is to start at the ground floor and walk around the outside of the building looking for anything out of the ordinary or unusual.

Once the individual has completed the outside evaluation, enter the building and begin on the ground floor. It is helpful if you decide early on to always start in the same direction, either to the right or left. In some buildings a checklist or inventory of rooms can be helpful to keep track of rooms as they are inspected.

Inspect all rooms, closets and concealed spaces on all floors. Record your beginning and completion time for each floor or designated area.

If access to the roof is permitted, an inspection of this area should also be performed. Once the entire building has been inspected, record the time on your checklist. You will then need to start your inspection at the beginning and the process will follow the same sequence.

This type of Firewatch tour can be utilized and modified for all types of buildings. You may customize it for your particular needs.

Should you require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Fire Department at 752-1236.