Office of the State Fire Marshal

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Timothy P. McLaughlin
State Fire Marshal
Office of the State Fire Marshal

Date: February 25, 2026
To: All Fire Departments and Fire Districts
From: The office of the State Fire Marshal
Subject: Firefighter Details

In the interest of life safety, the office of the State Fire Marshal is issuing the following directive:

Fire Alarm Systems / Sprinkler Systems

Nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living facilities and hotels shall require a uniformed firefighter detail[1] if any one of the following are met:

- A critical impairment of a required fire alarm system.
- When a required fire alarm system is out of service for more than four (4) hours[2].
- If the buildings sprinkler system is out of service for more than four (4) hours.

Preplanned Sprinkler Impairments

Nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living facilities and hotels shall require a uniformed firefighter[3] for all preplanned sprinkler impairments according to RIFC Chapter 13.3.3.6.5.1[4].

Apartment Buildings

It shall be the responsibility of the municipal fire departments or fire districts to determine the need for a fire watch in any apartment building experiencing an unacceptable fire alarm or sprinkler impairment.

Sincerely,

Timothy McLaughlin
Rhode Island State Fire Marshal

[1] RIFC 1.7.17.1
[2] RILSC (Add) 9.6.1.5
[3] RIFC 1.7.17.1
[4] RIFC 13.3.3.6.5.2 (4) (b)