

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo  
Fire Prevention Branch  
Phone: (780) 792 – 5519  
[RESFire.PreventionBranch@rmwb.ca](mailto:RESFire.PreventionBranch@rmwb.ca)

May 1, 2024

## **RE: PERMIT REQUIRED PERFORM WORK ON SPECIAL FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS IN THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO**

If you wish to obtain a permit, please complete the attached application and return it to the Fire Prevention Branch for processing. All special fire suppression systems work permits expire at the end of the calendar year (December 31<sup>st</sup>), and a new work permit for the following year is required. A \$132 fee for permit review and processing is required at the time of application.

As of the date of this letter, Alberta legislation has adopted the National Fire Code – 2023 Alberta Edition and the National Building Code – 2023 Alberta Edition, further referenced as NFC(AE) and NBC(AE) respectively.

### **Scope**

The Fire Prevention Branch is responsible for enforcing the current NFC(AE) and applicable standards within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Activities applicable to the NBC(AE) (i.e. installation or alteration of special fire suppression systems) require an application for a building permit. For more information about building permits, contact Safety Codes Services by email at [inspections@rmwb.ca](mailto:inspections@rmwb.ca), by telephone at 780-743-7000, or by visiting the Safety Codes Services counter in the first floor of the Jubilee Building located at 9909 Franklin Avenue.

Please ensure all persons in your company are aware of the following NFC(AE) Division C requirements:

### **2.2.4. Qualifications**

#### **2.2.4.1 Special Fire Suppression Systems**

- 1)** Only qualified persons shall install special fire suppression systems when they have acquired a certificate of training from a manufacturer and on a specific system from the manufacturer.
- 2)** A qualified individual for the installation of a special fire suppression system is a person who has received
  - a) training from a manufacturer, and
  - b) training on each specific system that a manufacturer provides before it can be installed.
- 3)** Only qualified persons shall test or perform maintenance on a special fire suppression system when
  - a) they have acquired an *approved* certificate of training from a public post-secondary education institution, or
  - b) they have acquired a certificate of training from a manufacturer for each of their specific systems.

The NFC(AE) defines the term ***approved*** as acceptable to the *Provincial Fire Administrator*.



**A-2.2.4.1.** Proof of training from the manufacturer is provided via an issued certificate with the following information:

- (a) certificate holder,
- (b) certificate holder company,
- (c) date of certification,
- (d) type of certification, including the manufacturer and type of system, and
- (e) expiry date, if applicable.

Typically, certification must be updated following a change of employment or change of manufacturer. It is the responsibility of the certificate holder to contact the manufacturer regarding any changes in their employment.

Currently, there is only one approved course at a public post-secondary institution, which is provided by the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT). The SAIT program material only covers pre-engineered kitchen suppression systems. Once a person graduates, the expectation is that they gain practical experience while working under the supervision of an experienced, qualified person.

The Fire Prevention Branch will not evaluate qualifications and will not accept qualifications that are not **approved**. The Fire Prevention Branch will verify NFC(AE) qualification requirements and **approved** certificates of training. Evaluation and approval of other various training, certificates, and seals are performed by the office of the Provincial Fire Administrator.

To provide the best service to our mutual customers, the Fire Prevention Branch will issue a permit to perform maintenance on special fire suppression systems to those companies with individuals qualified as per the NFC(AE). The process for permit issuance allows for sharing industry information, verifying qualifications, reviewing report language, and establishing communication between services in the field and fire department dispatch.

### **Obligations of the Service Provider**

It is expected that an inspection, testing, or maintenance report is made available to a customer within 15 business days of the inspection. If a service provider discovers that a fire-extinguishing system or exhaust system is nonoperational or impaired, the system shall be tagged as noncompliant, and the service provider shall notify, in writing, the Fire Prevention Branch and the owner or the owner's representative of the nonoperational status or impairment.

Should you have further questions, please contact the Fire Prevention Branch.

Sincerely,

Fire Prevention Branch  
Regional Emergency Services





REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO  
FIRE PREVENTION BRANCH  
APPLICATION FOR PERMIT / SERVICE**

Type of Permit: SPECIAL FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Business License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Use:      Annual ☐                      Single Event ☐                      Monthly ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (months)

Business Name & Address for Permit Use: (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Permit Commencement Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned hereby applies for the above in accordance with the Alberta *Fire Code Regulation* and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo By-laws and requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

*The personal information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The personal information will be used for inspection, billing and issuing purposes. If you have any questions regarding the collection or use of this information, contact the Fire Prevention Branch, Fire Hall # 5, 200 Saprae Creek Trail T9H 4P1, or call 780-792-5519.*

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

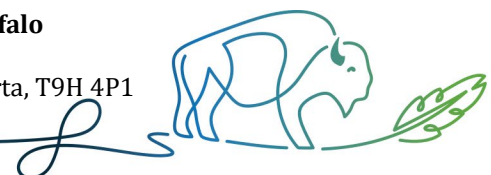
Date/Time Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Received By: \_\_\_\_\_ Invoice Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Cash, Cheque, Debit or Credit)

Please send the complete application to [RESFire.PreventionBranch@rmwb.ca](mailto:RESFire.PreventionBranch@rmwb.ca)

**Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo  
Fire Prevention Branch**  
200 Saprae Creek Trail, Fort McMurray, Alberta, T9H 4P1  
[www.rmwb.ca/fireprevention](http://www.rmwb.ca/fireprevention)



## Application Checklist

Please ensure all required documentation is completed and attached to the permit applications.

### Include This Checklist with the Permit Application Package

Applicant Initials Here:	Special Fire Suppression Systems Maintenance Work Permit Application
	Attached Application Form.
	Attached Qualification Form.
	Provided photocopies of credentials/qualifications.
	Attached special fire suppression system service report template.
	On the first page of all reports, <u>the applicable standard and the edition currently adopted in Alberta</u> are explicitly identified. For example, <a href="#">NFPA 17A-2017</a> .
	On the first page of all service reports, the system status - <u>fully functional or system has deficiencies</u> - is explicitly identified.
	Persons working on a special fire suppression system are aware of the <a href="#">STANDATA 19-FCI-002R1, "Fixed Fire Suppression and Exhaust Systems – Cooking, Cleaning, and Maintenance"</a> requirements including, but not limited to, the requirement for connection of the suppression system to the fire alarm system.
	Persons working on a special fire suppression system are aware of <a href="#">STANDATA 19-BCI-014, "Fire Alarm and Fire Suppression System Verification and Testing Certificates"</a> requirements.

Applicant's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Position with Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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*For Office Use Only*

Reviewing Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



## Proof of Qualifications

### Technologist/Technician

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

MANUFACTURER MAKE	MANUFACTURER MODEL	PROOF OF QUALIFICATIONS ATTACHED? YES/NO

### Technologist/Technician

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

MANUFACTURER MAKE	MANUFACTURER MODEL	PROOF OF QUALIFICATIONS ATTACHED? YES/NO

*Duplicate this page as necessary.*



## Permit Conditions

Activities regulated by the Alberta *Building Code Regulation* require a building permit. Building permits, where required, shall be obtained from the Building Authority through a presentation of the complete scope of work involving fire protection installations. For more information about building permits, contact Safety Codes Services by email at [inspections@rmwb.ca](mailto:inspections@rmwb.ca), by telephone at 780-743-7000, or by visiting the Safety Codes Services counter in the first floor of the Jubilee Building located at 9909 Franklin Avenue.

All work performed shall be in conformance with the NFC(AE), NBC(AE), and relevant National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

**Only qualified persons confirmed by the Fire Prevention Branch can install, alter, test, or perform maintenance on special fire suppression systems.**

Credentials of all qualified personnel intended to work on special fire suppression systems must be forwarded to the Fire Prevention Branch at the time of application or permit renewal. Credentials must also be provided any time a new employee works on special fire suppression systems within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo so as to accurately maintain the permit information.

These conditions, in addition to "Fire Watch Service Guidelines", form part of the special fire suppression systems work permit which you have been issued.

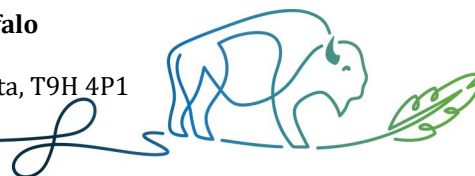
**No work on fire alarm systems shall be performed under this permit.** When a scope of work requires any work on existing fire alarm systems, the following conditions shall be met:

- Persons working on existing fire alarm systems shall hold a valid work on fire alarm systems permit issued by the Fire Prevention Branch, which provides direction and requirements regarding qualifications and notification to Fire Department Dispatch.
- Persons working on existing fire alarm systems shall be qualified under the NFC(AE) at all times as per the *Provincial Fire Administrator's* interpretation.

Interruption of the normal operation of a fire protection system for any purpose constitutes a "temporary shutdown." Types of interruptions include but are not limited to: periodic inspection or testing, maintenance, and repairs.

When a portion of a fire protection system is temporarily shut down, alternative measures shall be taken to ensure that the level of safety intended by the NFC(AE) is maintained. The following resources can help develop alternative measures for life safety during a "temporary shutdown":

- NFC(AE)
- Applicable CAN/ULC Standards
- Building Fire Safety Plan
- Other applicable codes and standards



Alternative measures can include, but are not limited to:

- Procedure for notification of the fire department
- Procedure for notification of building occupants
- Alternative form of local alarm known to the building occupants
- Extra watch service, conforming to the requirements of *Fire Watch Service*
- Posting instructions for alternate provisions or actions to be taken in case of an emergency
- Provide additional emergency hose lines (where a standpipe system is also provided) or additional fire extinguishers (where no standpipe system is present) to the areas affected by the sprinkler shutdown.

The following conditions apply to a permitted shutdown of a special fire suppression system for inspections, tests, maintenance, cleaning, or repairs per Division B **Section 6.1**, **Section 6.6**, and **Article 2.1.3.5** of the National Fire Code – 2023 Alberta Edition [NFC(AE)].

1. Provide additional appropriate fire extinguishers in the areas affected by the special fire suppression system shutdown.
2. Where the special fire suppression system provides automatic fire protection coverage of a substantive portion of the facility, a fire watch, conforming to the requirements of the Fire Watch Service guideline shall be provided.
3. Down time of the special fire suppression system shall be minimized as much as possible and the system restored to full operational condition as soon as practicable.
4. The facility owner and all affected building occupants shall be notified of any special fire suppression system shutdowns before they occur.
5. The facility owner shall be kept aware of the status of the special fire suppression systems.
6. **Where commercial cooking equipment exhaust systems and/or their associated fire-extinguishing systems are put out of service for inspection, testing, maintenance, or cleaning, the supervisory and kitchen staff shall be informed that the use of the appliances protected by the offline system is prohibited.**
7. **Any modifications to the areas of coverage, orientation, spacing or layout of the nozzles or commercial cooking equipment requires a building permit from Safety Codes Services and is excluded from the scope of work from the permit issued by the Fire Prevention Branch.**
8. It is expected that an inspection, testing, or maintenance report is made available to a customer within 15 business days of the inspection. If a service provider discovers that a device or system is inoperative or defective and the owner is unwilling or unable to correct the defect, the service provider shall notify, in writing, the Fire Prevention Branch and the owner or their authorized agent of that notification.





## Fire Watch Service Guidelines

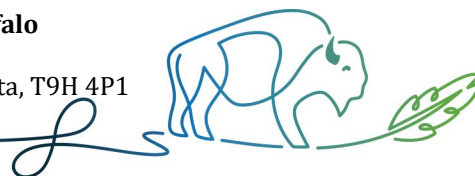
Alberta Regulation 32/2015, Fire Code Regulation, requires that fire protection installations shall always be maintained in operating condition. Where any fire protection systems are offline for any reason, a Fire Watch using dedicated fire watch personnel shall be implemented immediately and must be continuous until the fire protection systems are repaired and restored to a fully operational status. **Fire protection installations shall be inspected, tested, maintained, repaired, replaced, modified, or made operational only by a service company with a valid permit from the Fire Prevention Branch.**

A “Fire Watch” is a dedicated person or persons whose sole responsibility is to look for fires within an established area. Fire watch is required in the event of temporary failure or shutdown of fire safety equipment, where activities require the interruption of any fire detection, suppression or alarm system component, or where activities increase the risk of fire—such as Hot Works.

***Fire Watch is only intended as a short term alternative that permits continued occupancy of the facility/building. The immediate action of the facility/building owner, or their representative, shall arrange for corrective measures to be taken on the system(s) that are out of service.***

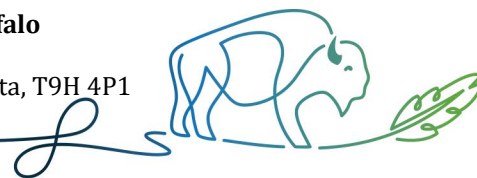
Fire watch may be conducted by professional security/fire watch service company or by occupants of the building designated by the facility/building owner(s) and trained in their duties.

1. Dedicated fire watch personnel utilized/employed for fire watch service in a facility/building shall have knowledge of and be capable of performing the following functions:
  - Recognizing an emergency situation,
  - Transmitting an emergency warning to facility/building occupants,
  - Transmitting an emergency message to 911,
  - Operating equipment required for fire control and emergency warning, and
  - Maintaining orderly control of emergency evacuation procedures.
2. No other duties shall interfere with a fire watch personnel's duties.
3. A sufficient number of fire watch personnel shall be utilized/employed to make at least one complete patrol of the area to be protected, including stairwells, every 60 minutes or less, *depending on the risk and requirements of the fire department.* Where all areas or zones requiring the fire watch cannot be patrolled within 60 minutes or less, retaining additional personnel, as necessary, for such duties is required. *Only those areas or zones affected by shutdown or are inoperative are required to have fire watch.* **Fire watch patrols shall be continuous, and it is the expectation that fire watch personnel always remain on-site actively patrolling. Each patrol shall be recorded and made available upon request by a Fire Safety Codes Officer.**
4. Each fire watch personnel shall be provided with a means of communication to 911 both within and outside of the facility required to be protected. (Cellular phone is acceptable)





5. Each fire watch personnel shall be advised of:
  - The route to be followed during patrol,
  - Details to be observed during the patrol,
  - Situations that require notification of emergency personnel,
  - Emergency notification instructions,
  - Fire safety plan emergency procedures relevant to the area(s) for which fire watch has been assigned, and
  - Fire extinguishers and/or hose cabinet locations.
6. The first patrol of each shift of fire watch shall commence within 15 minutes of the beginning of the shift and shall include the following:
  - Ensure that access to and from the building is unobstructed,
  - Ensure that all combustible waste has been removed from the building or is stored in proper containers with lids,
  - Ensure that all fire protection equipment is in place (as shown on fire safety plan drawings) and accessible for use,
  - Ensure that aisles providing access to exit are unobstructed,
  - Turn off all non-required appliances and machinery,
  - Ensure that smoking material containers have been appropriately emptied and disposed of in closed metal containers,
  - Ensure that all service appliances used for heating, ventilating and air conditioning are operating properly,
  - Monitor all special hazards that are operating (i.e. special heaters, fuel-fired appliances, etc.), and
  - Monitor all special storage areas containing hazardous materials such as flammable/combustible materials, compressed gases and combustible waste.
7. All building occupants are to be notified that fire protection systems in the building are out of service and that a Fire Watch has been instituted until the systems are online again.
8. A "Fire Watch Notice" shall be posted in a conspicuous location in the main entrance to the building. Copies of the Fire Watch Notice must also be posted throughout the common areas of the areas or zones affected by the shutdown.
9. Each person assigned to Fire Watch duties should be provided with the following equipment and materials:
  - A portable air horn, whistle, or other means of sounding an alarm
  - Keys and/or access codes to provide entry to all rooms/spaces
  - Floor/site plan(s) of the facilities/buildings under Fire Watch
  - A list of persons who may require assistance in evacuation within the facility/building
  - A copy of this "Fire Watch Service" document
  - Copies of the "Fire Watch Record"



10. If fire or smoke conditions are discovered:
  - Alert all building occupants by sounding a portable air horn, whistle, and/or activating the fire alarm system (if not affected by shutdown and still online).
  - Notify the fire department by calling **9-1-1—ALWAYS call from a safe area away from the immediate fire area.**
  - Do not attempt to extinguish a fire unless it is safe to do so. Additionally, the fire should be small; you should have an escape route(s) and continuously re-evaluate its usability; and you should be trained in and confident in your ability to use fire extinguishing equipment.
  - Marshal the evacuation as required. Once the building evacuation is complete, await emergency response personnel at a safe location (muster point).
  - *Do not re-enter the building without an ALL CLEAR from a Fire Department Official.*
11. Other duties and responsibilities include:
  - Never leave the areas requiring fire watch service unless other fire watch personnel replace you
  - Means of egress, including corridors, access to exits, egress and exit doors are to be checked periodically for proper operation and obstructions; rectify any issues immediately, if possible
  - Keep flammable materials away from ignition sources
  - Stop operations if you find any hazardous condition
  - Be on the lookout for potential fire hazards in all areas or zones affected by the shutdown
  - Maintain the conditions and requirements stated on the Hot Works permit
  - When all operations are done, do not leave the worksite unless you're sure that there are no hot sparks, burning embers and other fire hazards unless another Fire Watch or fire monitor is assigned



# **FIRE WATCH NOTICE**

- *Post copies of this sign at the principal entrance and all other entrances leading to the affected area(s).*

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## **OUT OF SERVICE**

A fire watch is patrolling the portion(s) of the building affected by the out-of-service system(s).

**IN CASE OF FIRE**

**CALL 9-1-1**

## Fire Watch Record

**Facility/Building Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Systems Shutdown**

- ☐ Fire Alarm System      ☐ Fire Sprinkler System      ☐ Standpipe System  
☐ Fire Pump System      ☐ Special Fire Suppression System  
☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**System(s) Out of Service**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Systems(s) Restored Online**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas/Zones Requiring Fire Watch Patrols**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Persons Conducting Fire Watch Service**

Name	Company	Contact Number

Supervisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

