



# NUISANCE ALARMS DURING CONSTRUCTION

Nuisance alarms are disruptive to the teaching and research mission of the University and contribute to a dangerous complacency in occupants, who may be slower to evacuate in an actual emergency. Contractors and construction managers can help prevent nuisance alarms by taking the following measures prior to and during construction. A pre-construction meeting specifically for false alarms should be conducted to discuss preventative measures.

## TEMPORARY FIRE PARTITIONS AND DUST BARRIERS

Review bid documents and specifications to establish what types of temporary fire partition and dust barrier measures are necessary for the specific job site.



Barriers should be erected and inspected prior to any demolition.

## TEMPORARY IMPAIRMENT/ REMOVAL OF DEVICES

If a dust or steam-producing activity cannot be avoided, assess the proximity of fire detection in the area and confer with the University fire protection engineer at 206.616.3775 to identify which devices could be removed, bagged or otherwise disabled. Duct detectors and other devices that may be hidden can be identified through record drawings.



On the Seattle campus, disabling or covering devices must be performed by the University Fire Alarm Shop. Call UW Facilities at 206.685.1900 to request that

detectors be temporarily bypassed or covered to avoid a false alarm. Do not attempt to cover the detectors yourself.

## FIRE WATCH REQUIREMENTS

Contact the University fire protection engineer at 206.616.3775 to determine if a fire watch will be required by the fire department while the fire alarm devices are impaired. The contractor may serve as fire watch in some cases.

## DISCUSS PROJECT-RELATED FALSE ALARMS

If the project has caused a false alarm, the incident must be reviewed, and measures must be taken to prevent reoccurrence. This discussion should take place at the regular project construction meeting.

## PLACING SYSTEM IN SERVICE

For new buildings or substantial tenant improvements, the fire alarm system should *not* be placed in service until the building is cleaned and painted or other dust producing activities are completed (contractual final clean).

Once the fire alarm system has been accepted by the fire department, all smoke detector covers should be removed prior to placing the system in service as the act of removing the cover may trip the alarm.

**Contact EH&S at 206-543-7262 or [ehsdept@uw.edu](mailto:ehsdept@uw.edu) for more information.**