

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER		POLICY	DENVER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Subject:	Fire Watch for Temp Heat, Hot Works, Torch Applied Roofing		
Reference:	2018 IFC, 2019 Denver Amendments, & 2018 NFPA, 2019 DFC		
Approved:	Manuel Almaguer Division Chief, Fire Prevention Division		
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This policy is meant to provide basic information in any given occupancy. All other Fire Code requirements will be addressed and enforced by the Fire Inspector during inspections. Questions can be addressed to the Fire Prevention Division office between 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday thru Friday, at (720) 913-3474 or at [DENFPB@DENVERGOV.ORG](mailto:DENFPB@DENVERGOV.ORG). For inspection requests from the Flammables group, please call (720) 913-3440. Permits may be obtained via E-Permits – Accela Citizen Access available at [Denver Fire Department - Fire Safety Operational Permits](#).

## I. SCOPE

- A. This policy covers the setting and keeping of Fire Watch within the City and County of Denver while conducting Hot Works operations, providing for Temporary Heating, or using a torch to apply roofing materials. All conditions of the fire watch must be met.
- B. The misuse of temporary heating devices and torches has resulted in numerous fires and millions of dollars in property loss.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Fire Watch. A temporary measure intended to ensure continuous and systematic surveillance of a building or portion thereof by one or more qualified individuals for the purposes of identifying and controlling fire hazards, detecting early signs of unwanted fire, raising an alarm of fire and notifying the fire department.
- B. Hot Work Operation. Includes cutting, welding, thermal welding, brazing, soldering, grinding, thermal spraying, thawing pipe, installation of torch-applied roof systems or any other similar activity.
- C. Hot Work Area. Is the area that is exposed to sparks, hot slag, or radiant or convective, heat as a result of the hot work.
- D. Hot Work Equipment. Defined as electric or gas welding or cutting equipment used for hot work.
- E. **Hot Work Permits.** Permits issued by the responsible person at the facility under the hot work permit program permitting welding or other hot work to be done in locations referred to in Section 3503.3 and pre-permitted by the fire code official.

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**F. Hot Work Program.** A permitted program, carried out by approved facilities-designated personnel, allowing them to oversee and issue permits for hot work conducted by their personnel or at their facility. The intent is to have trained, on site, responsible personnel ensure that required hot work safety measures are taken to prevent fires and fire spread.

**G. Permit.** An official document or certificate issued by the fire code official that authorizes performance of a specified activity.

**H. Torch-Applied Roof System.** Bituminous roofing systems using membranes that are adhered by heating with a torch and melting asphalt back coating instead of mopping hot asphalt for adhesion.

### III. PERMITS

Permits shall be required as set forth in Section 105 of the IFC for the activities or uses for Temporary Heating Equipment, Fire Watch, Cutting and Welding and Safeguarding Roofing operations.

#### A. **SITE INSPECTION FOR DENVER FIRE DEPARTMENT PERMIT**

Upon successful approval of permit from the Denver Fire Department Fire Prevention Division, a Fire Inspector may conduct a field inspection of the site. Compliance with **all** Fire Code requirements shall be maintained at all times. Permit shall be kept on site and is valid only for the owner, time frame and site address indicated on the permit.

A permit may be revoked when:

1. Any of the conditions or limitations set forth in the permit have been violated
2. Compliance with written orders has not been achieved
3. False statements or misrepresentations of information provided in the permit application are found
4. The permit is issued in error or in violation of an ordinance, regulation or the Fire Code

### III. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

**A.** Fire watch shall be provided during hot work activities and shall continue not less than thirty (30) minutes after the conclusion of the work. The fire code official, or the responsible manager under a hot work program, is authorized to extend the

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fire watch based on the hazards or work being performed. A permit for fire watch may be required anytime hot work is conducted after hours or heating inside structures occupied by the public.

- B.** Location. The fire watch shall include the entire hot work/Heating area. Hot work conducted in areas with vertical or horizontal fire exposures that are not observable by a single individual shall have additional personnel assigned to fire watches to ensure that exposed areas are monitored.
- C.** Duties. Individuals designated to fire watch duty shall have fire-extinguishing equipment readily available and shall be trained in the use of such equipment. Individuals assigned to fire watch duty shall be responsible for extinguishing spot fires and communicating an alarm. Personnel conducting fire watch shall have no other duties other than those assigned to a fire watch detail.
- D.** Fire Training. The individuals responsible for performing the hot work and individuals responsible for providing the fire watch shall be trained in the use of portable fire extinguishers.
- E.** Fire Extinguisher. A fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2-A:20-B:C shall be located within 30 feet of hot work operation. Access to 911. Fire watch personnel must have access to a cellular telephone, landline telephone or portable radio for undelayed wireless access to the fire dispatcher (911).
- F.** Records. Must maintain logbook of duty watch. Log must be emailed daily to [flammables@denvergov.org](mailto:flammables@denvergov.org).
- G.** Personnel. Personnel conducting fire watch shall have no other duties other than those assigned to a fire watch detail.
- H.** Temporary heating equipment. Temporary Heating equipment while operating, should be visually inspected every hour to ensure that combustibles have not blown or fallen over near the temporary heating device.
- I.** High Wind. During windy periods, it might be necessary to reduce the interval between inspections.
- J.** Location of Temporary Heating Equipment. Any object near the temporary heating device that is hot to the touch should be moved, or the temporary heating device should be relocated.
- K.** Operation of Heating Equipment. The visual inspection also should ensure that the appliance is operating properly. Any appliance that is not operating properly should be turned off until repairs have been made.
- L.** Listed. Temporary heating devices shall be listed and labeled. The installation, maintenance and use of temporary heating devices shall be in accordance with the listing and the manufacturer's instructions

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- M. LP-gas heaters. Fuel supplies for liquefied-petroleum gas-fired heaters shall comply with Chapter 61 of the IFC and the International Fuel Gas Code.
- N. Installation. Clearance to combustibles from temporary heating devices shall be maintained in accordance with the labeled equipment. When in operation, temporary heating devices shall be fixed in place and protected from damage, dislodgement or overturning in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- O. Supervision. The use of temporary heating devices shall be supervised and maintained by competent personnel.

#### **IV. ENFORCEMENT**

##### **A. Enforcement of any violations of this policy will be enforced by the Denver Fire Department**

1. *General penalty.* If no definite fine or penalty is provided for a violation except as otherwise provided in Section 1-14, of the Denver Revised Municipal Code any person who shall be convicted of a violation of any such section may, for each offense, be fined in a sum not more than nine hundred ninety-nine dollars (\$999.00) or jailed not to exceed three hundred (300) days, or both so fined and jailed.
2. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit sentencing options that are otherwise available to the court.
3. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the length of probation provided in Section 14-61 of this Code.(c)
4. *Separate violations.* Unless distinct and separate violations can be otherwise established, each day an offense and violation continues shall constitute a separate offense and violation.
5. *Licenses or privileges.* The suspension or revocation of any license, certificate, permit or other privilege conferred by the city shall not be regarded as a penalty for the purposes of this Code but shall be in addition to the penalty provided in subsections (1) through (4).
6. *Cumulative remedies.* The civil, criminal, and administrative actions, fines, sentences, penalties, judgments, and remedies provided by this Code are intended to be cumulative in nature unless specifically indicated otherwise. The city may pursue one (1) or more of these civil, criminal, and administrative actions, fines, sentences, penalties, judgments, and remedies and may do so simultaneously or in succession.

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7. Pursuant to the *Denver Fire Code*, Section 109.1.1, Prior to any action by the Executive Director of Safety, an application in writing shall be filed in the office of the Director within thirty (30) days after receiving the order, decision, or determination made by the *fire code official* on a form provided by the Director providing the necessary information required. A copy of such application shall be furnished to the *fire code official* by the applicant. Payment of the fee established by the Executive Director of Safety, in the form of a check made payable to the Denver Manager of Finance, must accompany the application.

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**END OF DOCUMENT**