



## **SECTION 24–FIRE ALARM SYSTEM**

- 24.1 Fire Alarm System Operation
- 24.2 Fire Alarm System Bypass Permit

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## 24.1 FIRE ALARM SYSTEM OPERATION

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### A. Objective

To protect Harper community and property from fire in the form of alarm/detection systems, building notification systems and extinguishing systems. This procedure will cover responsibilities for the maintenance and testing of the fire alarm system as well as the procedure for either bypassing alarms and/or if notification if the system is down due to impairments.

### B. Scope

This procedure is applicable to the Facilities Management Department or any other department that may require changes or disabling of the fire alarm system and to Harper College Police Department (HCPD) which monitors the fire alarm system and may put the alarm in bypass per permit.

### C. Definitions

**Device (point) Bypass** –Alarm system is **operable**, only certain detection device (points) are temporarily taken off line (turned off). These devices should generally only be smoke detectors and should never be pull stations. This situation is requested to and implemented by HCPD, from an Employee or Supervisor by completing a Bypass Permit.

**Building Bypass** – All horns and strobes are in silence and NO activation of devices will be sent to Northwest Central Dispatch (NWCD). This should only be used for TESTING of the fire alarm system. If this level of bypass is used for anything other than testing, permission must be granted by Palatine Fire Prevention via request through EHS, seven days prior to the permit activation.

**Impairment** – Fire alarm or sprinkler system is **inoperable**, **NO** signal (alarm or trouble) is sent to HCPD or NWCD and **NO** horns or strobes work to notify occupants of a problem. This situation is due to a breakdown of the system and repairs must be made. There shall be **NO** “Hotwork” (see Section 23 for Hotwork Procedures) performed in the building that is in impairment.

### D. Responsibility

There are two College units that have responsibilities in the operation of the fire alarm system:

- Harper College Police Department (HCPD) is responsible for monitoring and maintaining/repairing the fire alarm system. They will also send out notifications to required College personnel of fire detection alarms. HCPD will implement requests for the building to be put in Bypass via a Bypass Permit. If a building is impaired, HCPD will conduct a Firewatch and inform the necessary Harper personnel and Fire Department.
- Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) is responsible for coordinating the inspection and testing of the fire alarm systems and associated recordkeeping. The actual testing and inspection is conducted by a licensed fire alarm and sprinkler contractor. EHS also conducts evacuation drills.

### E. Procedures

#### Fire Alarm System Bypass Procedure

The fire alarm system and their components may be required to be put in bypass mode for maintenance/repair, testing, dusty work that cannot be isolated or hot work. Putting the system in bypass shall be planned and limited to a twelve (12) hour time period. The Supervisor or Employee of the Department conducting the work shall complete the Bypass Permit. The bypass permit requestor will determine which devices (points) should be put in bypass, EHS will help



determine the devices if needed. The following procedures shall be followed for bypassing any component of the fire alarm system:

#### **Testing, Maintenance and/or Repair to the Fire Alarm System**

If any of these operations may trigger a non-intentional activation of the system, the Supervisor shall complete a Bypass Permit. For testing, maintenance or repair to an entire building fire alarm system the Building Bypass may be used.

#### **Dusty Work**

The department performing the “dust creating” work shall take measures to control large amounts of dust, fumes, vapors, etc. The following steps for isolation should be considered before requesting a Bypass Permit:

- Implement engineering controls to limit dust/fumes/vapors, etc. by installing plastic around work area, ventilate work area and/or using wet methods to limit dust creation.
- Department may cover smoke detectors in the vicinity of the work being performed by the use of detector covers-preferred, or a paper bag. Supervisor must ensure these are removed at the end of the work.

If work that is being done is creating such dust/fumes, etc. that cannot be controlled by any of the above isolation controls then a Device/Point Bypass Permit may be requested by the Supervisor or Employee conducting the work.

#### **Hot Work**

Operations involving cutting or welding are referred to as Hot Work. All safety procedures for Hot Work Operations are outlined in the Environmental Health and Safety Procedure Manual, Section 23. Hot Work is **not** allowed in buildings where there is a fire alarm or sprinkler system impairment.

# 24.2 FIRE ALARM SYSTEM BY-PASS PERMIT

REV. 4/20

<b>FIRE ALARM SYSTEM BYPASS PERMIT</b> <b>“Bypass Permit”</b>		
This Fire Alarm System Bypass Permit is <b>required</b> for any work that is performed inside a building where operations may trigger the alarm for a non-fire event or for service to the fire alarm system. This Bypass Permit only temporarily bypasses (de-activates) <u>the selected detection devices</u> , all other detection systems are in operation.		
Work being done by: <input type="checkbox"/> Employee Name: _____ Dept. _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor Name: _____ Phone # _____ <i>(The Permit must be signed below by the Harper employee that has hired or is working with a Contractor. Contractors may not complete the permit. Contractors should bring a signed Permit to Harper Police prior to beginning work.)</i>		
Work in Building and Room/Area: _____		
<b>Reason for Bypass:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> TESTING (Building Bypass) <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Alarm or <input type="checkbox"/> Sprinklers <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Device/Point Bypass: _____ MAINTENANCE / REPAIR Describe:  _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DUSTY WORK <i>(isolation controls must be attempted first)</i>  _____ <input type="checkbox"/> HOTWORK <i>(also see Hotwork requirements and permit in Section 23)</i>  _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____		
The following detection devices/points or entire building are to be put in bypass: <i>(list room number and type of detector and/or number of detectors, ex: A101 – 2 smoke detectors. Or attach system screen shot with points highlighted)</i>  _____		
Print Name: (Supervisor/Employee of Department Conducting Work or has hired Contractor): _____	Sign (original signature) : _____	
<b>Date:</b> _____	<b>Time Permit Begins:</b> _____	<b>Time Work is expected to end (max. 12 hours):</b> _____
<b>Section to be completed by Harper College Police Dept. (HCPD)</b>		
<b>Time System put back:</b> _____	<b>HCPD Call for Service #</b> _____	
<b>HCPD will automatically reset the Fire Alarm system after this Permit has expired (8.5 hours max.) If additional time is needed another Permit must be completed. Permit is to be posted in HCPD near Fire Alarm Panel.</b>		