



Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department Office of the Fire Marshal

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Guidelines and Specifications For:

Crowd Management and Fire Watch

Applicable Codes and Standards:

VSFPC - Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (2018)

SCC – Stafford County Code (Chapter 12)

General Requirements	Code Section
The fire official has the authority to order dangerous or hazardous conditions to be removed or remedied immediately including any situations which are liable to cause or contribute to the spread of fire or endanger occupants.	VSFPC 110.1
Where an indoor or outdoor gathering of persons has an adverse impact on public safety, the fire official shall have the authority to order the development of or prescribe a public safety plan which may include a designated fire watch or crowd managers.	VSFPC 403.11.1 VSFPC 403.11.2
Where facilities or events involve a gathering of more than 1,000 people , trained crowd managers shall be provided at a ratio of 1 to every 250 persons.	VSFPC 403.11.3

Public Safety Plan Requirements	Code Section
A public safety plan shall be approved or prescribed by the fire official and shall include or address the following items as necessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire lanes and emergency vehicle ingress and egress • Fire protection • Emergency egress or escape routes • Emergency Medical Services (EMS) • Public assembly areas • The direction of both attendees and vehicles, including the parking of vehicles • Vendor and food concession distribution • Law Enforcement and security • The need for on-site Fire and/or EMS personnel • Emergency Management coordination and incident command system organization 	VSFPC 403.11.2 SCC 12-22
Training for crowd managers must be approved by the fire official and documented for each crowd manager. Courses such as those offered by the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office, North Carolina State Fire Marshal's Office or endorsed by the National Association of State Fire Marshals are recommended.	VSFPC 403.11.3.3

Fire Watch	Code Section
When, in the opinion of the Fire Official or designee , a Fire Watch is necessary, the owner or other responsible party shall provide one or more fire watch personnel as required and approved. Fire Watch is only intended for existing location situations and not approved as a means for occupying a building under construction.	VSFPC 403.11.1
An approved Fire Watch shall be authorized only by the Fire Official or their designee and documented on the approved Stafford County Fire Watch Form .	VSFPC 403.11.1
Designated and approved Fire Watch personnel should at least 18 years of age, have no other assigned task or responsibilities, provided with appropriate equipment (phone, fire extinguisher, etc.) and be competent to perform the following duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep diligent watch for fires, obstructions to egress, and other hazards. • Take prompt measures for remediation of hazards, notification of emergencies (911) and extinguishment of fires that occur. • Take prompt measures to assist in the evacuation of occupants during an emergency. 	VSFPC 403.11.1.2