HEALTH CARE FACILITIES POLICIES (LIFE SAFETY CODE)

All health care facilities are required to have written policies to address the following requirements of the NFPA 101, Life Safety Code (2000 edition).

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM OUT OF SERVICE

Section 9.7.6.1 Where a required automatic sprinkler system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified, and the building shall be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all parties left unprotected by the shutdown until the sprinkler system has been returned to service.

If your facility has an automatic sprinkler system and it must be turned off for more than 4 hours, you must notify the Division of Health Facilities and implement a fire watch. Note that personnel conducting the fire watch during this period can have no other assigned duties.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM OUT OF SERVICE

Section 9.6.1.8 Where a required fire alarm system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified, and the building shall be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all parties left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire alarm system has been returned to service.

If your fire alarm system must be turned off for more than 4 hours, you must notify the Division of Health Facilities and implement a fire watch. Note that personnel conducting the fire watch during this period can have no other assigned duties.

FIRE SAFETY PLAN

Section 19.7.2.2 A written health care occupancy fire safety plan shall provide for the following:

1. Use of alarms
2. Transmission of alarm to fire department
3. Response to alarms
4. Isolation of fire
5. Evacuation of immediate area
6. Evacuation of smoke compartment*
7. Preparation of floors and building for evacuation
8. Extinguishment of fire

*This is a new item. Check your fire safety emergency plan to ensure that this step is included.