



YELLOW ALERT



FIRE WATCH

June 26 2020

The fire watch is one of the most important members of a Hot Work (HW) Team. Their quick actions to detect and respond to a fire in its initial stage could save a ship, a submarine, a building, and possibly lives. The fire watch must have **NO** other duties.

In the last two months, there have been 14 deficiencies found where the fire watch was not performing their duties per the requirements of IPI 0770-903, Hot Work Precautions.

- Fire watches found sleeping or inattentive to the HW site (for example: reading a book, on their phone).
- Fire watches not in the correct location to observe the HW site or backside.
- Fire watch fire extinguisher not maintained or too far away to respond.

Your Priorities as a Fire Watch	
1	Protect the hot workers and project or facility against fire.
2	Stop HW if there is a problem or emergency. The fire watch has the authority and responsibility to do this.
3	Know the HW site location, if the need arises to call 911, and two escape routes.

An additional 66 deficiencies have been found that could have easily been identified by the fire watch and corrected by the HW team.

- Combustibles within 35 feet of the HW site.
- Inadequate containments allowing sparks and slag to leave HW site.
- Inadequate ventilation allowing the space or area to fill up with smoke.

Combustible Materials. Combustible material must be kept 35 feet away from HW, if separation is possible. The fire watch will be trained to recognize the inherent hazards of the work site, such as paper, trash, and other combustibles, as well as faulty HW operations such as sparks leaving the containment.

Positioning. The requirements for positioning of a fire watch are as follows:

- At a minimum, fire watches must be within 50 feet of all HW operations. Additionally, the fire watch must have an unobstructed view of all assigned HW operations from a single fixed location.
- The fire watch must be able to access their fire extinguisher and apply agent within 15 seconds.
- The fire watch must have immediate access to the assigned HW operations with no physical obstructions or barriers in the way that would prevent them from performing their duties.
- The fire watch must not be assigned to more than four hot workers at any given time.
- **Fire watches must be alert at all times.**

Communication. Fire watches must have a means of communication with the entire HW team, including the hot workers that fire watch is assigned to and other fire watches.

- Fire watches must be present at the pre-work interactive brief.
- Fire watches must perform a shift turnover prior to work using the PSNS&IMF 4850/588 Hot Work Permit.

30 Minute Cool Down. Fire watches are required to remain in the HW area for at least 30 minutes after the completion of the HW.

Distribution Statement D: Distribution authorized to DoD and DoD contractors only; Administrative/Operational use 26 June 2020. Other request will be referred to COMNAVSEASYS COM (SEA OOP).

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Dumpster Fire A Lesson in Operational Risk Management (ORM)

On June 25, 2020 Fire and Emergency Services responded to a dumpster fire at the North end of drydock 2. The fire investigation determined a bucket of smoldering cigarette butts was the cause of the fire. Practicing ORM could have prevented this situation.

ORM is a 5-step process:

1. Identify Hazards (smoldering cigarette butts)
2. Assess Hazards (potential for fire)
3. Make Risk Decisions (how can I prevent a fire?)
4. Implement Controls (Spray down cigarette bucket with water, etc.)
5. Supervise (Has the hazard been appropriately abated?)

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility is a dynamic workplace and before we start a job, we need to ask ourselves, "What can go wrong?" "What can I do to fix it?" In this case, before we can dispose of cigarette butts, we need to verify they are extinguished before we put them in the dumpster. Only You Can Prevent Dumpster Fires!



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If you have any questions regarding this Fire Watches, please contact Mr. Brady Seroshek, Hot Work Safety Program Manager (Code 106.22) at (360) 979-9652 or at brady.seroshek@navy.mil.

If you have any questions regarding this ORM, please contact Mr. Justin Tetter, Safety Consulting Branch (Code 106.23), at (360) 476-9659, or email at justin.tetter@navy.mil



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Fire, Police, Spills:
Bremerton - Land line 911 or (360) 476-3333
Bangor - Land line 911 or (360) 396-4444
Everett – Land line 911 or (425) 304-3333

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