



OREGON FIRE CODE Interpretations and Technical Advisories

A collaborative service by local and state fire professionals, along with our stakeholders and customers, to provide consistent and concise application of Oregon's fire prevention and life safety regulations.

Date: October 26, 2010

Ruling: Technical Advisory No. 10-01

Subject: Fumigation and Thermal Insecticidal Fogging

Code Reference: 2010 Oregon Fire Code, Chapter 17

Content: Alternative methods for Sections 1703.3.3 Watch Personnel.

Section 1703.3.3 states “During the period fumigation is in progress, except when fumigation is conducted in a gas-tight vault or tank, a capable, alert watcher shall remain on duty at the entrance or entrances to the enclosed fumigated space until after the fumigation is completed and the premises properly ventilated and safe for occupancy. Sufficient watchers shall be provided to prevent persons from entering the enclosed space under fumigation without being observed.”

The following questions have been asked:

Question 1: What is considered “sufficient watchers”?

Answer 1: The 2009 *International Fire Code Commentary* states a minimum of one watch must be posted at each entrance to the structure or space being fumigated. Watches must discourage or prevent entry by unauthorized and unprotected individuals until fumigation is completed; the building, structure or premises has been ventilated and the building, structure or premises is again ready for occupancy.

Question 2: What is considered “an entrance to the building”?

Answer 2: An entrance to the building would be any accessible doorway from the exterior to the interior of the building or structure.

Alternative Method(s): The fumigator in charge may use approved security devices on exterior doors as an alternative method to having watch personnel at each entrance to the building or structure. A *minimum* of one watch person is required to remain on the outside to make regular rounds during the fumigation process to make sure all doors remain secure. The fumigator in

charge shall insure that all watch personnel on the outside have knowledge on how to remove the security devices.

A minimum of one watch person shall be required to remain onsite until the building or structure is ready for occupancy after the fumigation process is complete. This may be a private security firm.

The watch personnel shall comply with all of the following,

a) Make regular rounds of the building or structure, and

Exception: A monitored security camera system may be an acceptable substitute for a roving patrol if the camera system is monitored onsite by an alert and capable watcher located at the main entrance and meets all the conditions in subsections b, c, and d.

b) Have an approved way of reporting an emergency (e.g. cell phone), and

c) Have a copy of the MSDS sheet(s) for the pesticides used and that is available for fire department and other emergency responders, and

d) Have a basic knowledge of the fumigation chemical in use and emergency procedures.

Other References: Manufacturer's Labeling Instructions. If the manufacturer's labeling instructions for watch personnel are more stringent they shall supersede this alternative method.