

**CITY OF ENGLEWOOD
ORDINANCE NO. 25-24**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD AMENDING CHAPTER 212, FIRE
PREVENTION BUREAU, ESTABLISHING ARTICLE IV A FIRE WATCH AND
SAFETY PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS in an effort to further enhance fire safety and fire prevention in the City of Englewood the Governing Body of the City of Englewood seeks to establish a Fire Watch and Safety Procedures; and

WHEREAS such procedures are designed to promote public health, safety and welfare in the City of Englewood;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT Ordained by the Governing Body of the City of Englewood that Chapter 212 of the Englewood City Code is hereby amended as follows:

Fire Watch and Protective Standby Procedure:

Definition of Fire Watch:

A "fire watch" is a temporary safety measure, ordered by the Fire Official or their designee, designed to provide continuous and systematic surveillance of a building or designated area. This service is carried out by one or more qualified personnel, whose primary responsibilities include fire prevention and ensuring life safety.

Conditions for Fire Watch Order:

A fire watch may be mandated by the Fire Official or their designee under the following circumstances:

1. **Impaired Fire Protection Systems:** Required fire protection systems are out of service or impaired.
2. **Requested by Property Owners:** A fire watch is requested by the building owner, tenant, lessee, or responsible party.
3. **Large Public and Private Events:** Events with 100 or more attendees, whether public or private.
4. **Imminent Hazards:** The presence of an imminent hazard, as outlined in N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.16.
5. **Hot Work Operations:** Any operation involving hot work, such as welding or cutting.
6. **Pyrotechnics:** Any performance or display involving the use of pyrotechnics.
7. **Permits:** Any request for a permit where the Fire Official requires a fire watch as a condition of issuing the permit.
8. **Other Circumstances:** Any other situations deemed necessary by the Fire Official or their designee.

Failure to Provide Fire Watch:

If a fire watch cannot be provided or is not agreed to by the Fire Official or the responsible party, the activity in question will be prohibited, and the building or affected area must be immediately closed and vacated. No activity shall take place in the building or area until a fire watch is established and deemed appropriate by the Fire Official. This measure ensures the safety of life and property and compliance with fire safety regulations.

City's Obligation to Provide Fire Watch:

The City of Englewood is not mandated to provide a fire watch. However, the City will, in all possible situations, attempt to provide a fire watch to ensure safety and compliance with fire prevention regulations. The availability of a fire watch will depend on the circumstances and the resources of the Fire Department. The fire watch will only be provided on a temporary basis and will not act as a substitute for making the necessary repairs or permanent corrections to building life safety components in a timely fashion. The responsible party is ultimately responsible for ensuring that any impaired fire protection or life safety systems are repaired or replaced as required.

Personnel for Fire Watch:

Fire watch duties will be carried out by qualified personnel from the City of Englewood Fire Department or Fire Prevention Bureau. All individuals assigned to fire watch responsibilities must report directly to the Fire Official or their designated representative.

Fire Watch Responsibilities:

The Fire Official or their designee will determine the specific terms of the fire watch, including staffing, equipment, and backup fire protection needs based on the unique nature of each situation. Core responsibilities of fire watch personnel include:

1. **Emergency Notification:** Alerting the Fire Department and building occupants in case of an emergency.
2. **Assisting in Evacuations:** Assisting in the safe evacuation of occupants when necessary.
3. **Surveillance:** Monitoring the property for any signs of fire or hazards.
4. **Fire Prevention:** Actively preventing potential fire hazards.
5. **Fire Extinguishment:** Taking appropriate action to extinguish fires if they occur.
6. **Hazard Mitigation:** Reducing risks to life and property by addressing potential hazards.

Consequences for Non-Compliance:

Failure to comply with the fire watch requirements, including refusal to agree to or provide a fire watch when mandated, will result in fines, penalties, or closure of the affected area until safety measures are restored.

Fire Watch Agreement:

A fire watch agreement form must be completed and signed by the responsible party to authorize the fire watch service and acknowledge agreement to the associated payment terms. This form must be signed and submitted prior to the initiation of fire watch services.

Fees and Payment Rates:

Fire watch services deemed necessary by the Fire Official, or their designee will be charged at a flat rate of \$85 an hour per person, with a minimum of two hours of service per person. Additional fees include:

- **Administration Fee:** A 15% Administration Fee will be applied to all Fire Watch Invoices
- **City Vehicle Usage:** A \$100 fee for the use of a standard City motor vehicle.
- **City Fire Apparatus:** A \$150 per hour fee for the use of any City fire apparatus required during the fire watch.

All payments for fire watch services must be made to the City of Englewood within 30 days following the service.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

If any Article, Sections, Subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid said Article, Section, Subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final publication as provided by law.

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RECORD OF VOTE

FIRST READING DATE: May 6, 2025

COUNCIL	MOTION	VOTE
David		AB
Rosenzweig	X	Y
Tokayer		Y
Wilson		Y
Wisotsky		Y

DATE PUBLISHED IN THE RECORD: May 12, 2025

DATES PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD: June 4, 2025

DATE SECOND READING HELD: June 4, 2025

COUNCIL	MOTION	OPEN	MOTION	CLOSE	MOTION	ADOPT
David						
Rosenzweig						
Tokayer						
Wilson						
Wisotsky						

Y=YES

N=OPPOSED

A=ABSTAINED

AB=ABSENT

PRESENTED TO MAYOR:

APPROVED _____

REJECTED _____ (VETO)

DATE: _____

MAYOR MICHAEL WILDES

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Ordinance adopted and approved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Englewood.

Yancy Wazirmas, RMC
City Clerk