

IMPAIRMENTS TO FIRE SYSTEMS



HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOUR COMPANY

Fire protection and detection system are considered as protecting barriers of one facility. Any malfunction or broken issue which occurs on part or entire system could render your facility vulnerable to unwanted incident. The damage, without the presence of functioned fire protection, can escalate to a catastrophe from a small fire.



Impairment of fire protection system can be either intentional or unintentional.

Intentional deactivation can normally occur during system maintenance on regular basis or short-period repairing during normal operation. The intentional deactivation includes planned and emergency impairment. Planned impairment is normally performed as routine maintenance for fire protection system. Emergency impairment, on the other hand, happens when fire protection devices are malfunctioned suddenly and required isolation of part or entire system for repairing.

Unintentional impairment (hidden type) is considerably dangerous as fire protection could be either out of service by human error, or malfunctioned without notice. Reason for unintentional impairment could be variable, but caused normally by lack of equipment control and regular inspection during the operation.

WHAT SHOULD YOUR COMPANY DO?

Method Consideration

Other methods should be estimated to conduct the job while leaving fire system operating. As there is no other way to avoid, isolation of working areas to smaller size will be necessary for better hazard control.

Maintenance

Proper maintenance plan for fire protection and fire detection devices must be efficient in time schedule and logical on inspecting methods.



Regulation

Hot work, smoking and hazardous operations should not be permitted in the affected area until the impairment of fire protection equipment is resolved. Vice versa, temporary impairment of fire protection for hot work or hazardous process is only allowed with approval of highest authority of your facility, with strict safety control of affected areas and constant surveillance of responsible employees.

Notification

It shall be compulsory to notify safety department and in-house fire fighters to be standby during the work is conducted at disabled fire protection area. On the other hand, maintenance staffs should patrol and check function of fire protection and detection. Plus, normal staffs are encouraged to identify error and notify maintenance staffs for reparation.

Manual Firefighting Equipment

Manual fire extinguishers as well as hydrant should be ready at areas of impaired fire detective system. Staffs who work at those areas must be notified and well trained in resolving possible emergency using manual fire protection equipment. The equipment shall be reserved and maintained at good condition at all time.



Authority

Impairment of fire detection or protection equipment can only issue by authorized staffs in the plant. The permit for impairment must be approved by the highest authorized person. Outside contractors are not allowed to conduct such act, as well as unauthorized employees.

Further Information:

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Disability of fire protection system can result in variable outcomes depending on nature of your facility. The outcome has high possibility of properties and humans loss. In history, many fire cases are diagnosed with disability of fire detector system or deactivation of fire pumps and sprinkler as the causes of loss. It is highly necessary to ensure that fire system is well reserved for loss prevention for your facility at any time.

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