I. PURPOSE
The New York State Fire Code recognizes the need for construction barrier to ensure the safety of the occupants in the building not in the construction, alteration or demolition site. Dust membranes do not afford any level of fire protection or fire resistance rated separation to areas remaining occupied during construction. Exit corridors, exit stairs, area separation walls, smoke barrier, etc. are all primary building features designed to allow safe egress out of the building or protect those who cannot self-evacuate. It is essential that separation be maintained between construction areas and occupied portions of the building.

II. PERSONNEL AFFECTED
Planning & Project Management (PPM)
University Facilities
University Contractors and Subcontractors
All personnel providing a service that could potentially cause damage passive fire protection systems at the University of Rochester.
EH&S Fire Marshal’s Office

III. DEFINITIONS

*Fire Watch (responsible person)* - A person trained in the safety and fire safety consideration concerned with hot work, fire system impairments or degraded passive fire protection systems. Fire watch is a qualified person who ensures a systematic surveillance of a building or portion of the building or activity. They function as the fire alarm system to report fires or similar emergencies to University Public Safety and to initiate evacuation of a building if a fire or emergency occurs. Fire watch personnel must be trained in the University’s Procedure for Reporting Fire Emergencies and possesses a means of communicating with the Public Safety Communications Center. Fire watch personnel shall carry a functional cellular phone/radio while on duty, and be familiar with the emergency number for UR Security, dial 13 from a UR house phone, #413 from an AT&T or Verizon cell phone, or 275-3333.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES
University Public Safety – monitor status of fire detection/suppression systems and notify EH&S of any problems
EH&S staff – assess reported problems and determine appropriate compensatory actions
Outside Contractors – maintain trained fire watches as necessary in construction area or in specific areas as needed
Facilities and all other University personnel – maintain trained fire watches as necessary in specific areas as need arises

V. PROCEDURES

A. Buildings are permitted to be occupied during renovation, repairs or additions only when the required means of egress and the required features of fire protection are in place and continuously maintained for the areas that are occupied or when alternative life safety measures that are acceptable to the AHJ are in place.

B. In occupied building, where temporary construction barriers are required to be installed during construction, renovations, alterations, additions, demolition, etc. or reconstruction of fire resistive assemblies, temporary construction shall meet the same fire resistive rating as would the permanent barrier except as allowed in item C or D of this procedure.

C. Use of plastic or vinyl dust barriers in lieu of fire rated separations is prohibited.
   1. The Fire Safety Specialist may allow fire retardant plastic films certified as conforming to NFPA 701 for jobs less than 24 hours.

D. Protection shall be provided to separate an occupied portion of the building by a 1-hour fire barrier with 45-minute opening protectives from the portion of the area undergoing alteration, construction, demolition operations.
   1. Nonrated walls and opening protectives shall be permitted when an approved automatic sprinkler system is installed.

E. Temporary construction barriers are not required where adequate fire resistive separation can be demonstrated to exist between occupied areas and construction areas.

F. Smoke compartments and refuge areas in compliance with the NYS Building Code shall be maintained throughout the period of construction.

G. Existing means of egress need not be maintained when approved code compliant temporary means of egress systems are provided.

H. Required means of egress shall be maintained at all times during construction, renovation, demolition, alterations and addition to any building.

I. A horizontal means of egress shall not be destroyed/ALTERED unless a substitute means of egress has been provide and approved.

J. Any scheduled work in patient care areas that will impair Life Safety Systems will require a Risk Assessment from the Project Risk Assessment Group.
K. Any emergent work will require the Fire Safety Specialist to be notified so he/she may perform a risk assessment.
L. EH&S will send a Fire Safety Specialist (FSS) to assess the site. The FSS will work with the job Foreman/Coordinator as to the best means of resolution.
M. Dependent on the plan that is formulated, the work may be scheduled to begin five or more days later due to necessary notifications and procedures.
N. Work shall not begin until the FSS has authorized the plan to be taken.
O. The FSS will advise crews of the procedural stipulations associated with the chosen method.
P. Combustible waste material shall not be accumulated to create a fire hazard as determined by the Fire Marshal and shall be removed from the building at a minimum at the end of each shift.
Q. Temporary storage of equipment to be installed, combustible construction material or combustible packing material shall not be stored in unprotected areas under construction unless approved by the University Fire Marshal.
R. At least 1 additional ABC fire extinguisher shall be in the construction site.

VI. REFERENCES
    Fire Code of NYS Chapters 9 & 33
    NFPA 241
    Environmental Health & Safety Fire Watch Policy #FS006

VII. APPENDICES/FORMS

VIII. REVISION HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Revision No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/29/2010</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Establish written policy regarding fire protection during construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/22/2013</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identified additional requirements for hospital work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/17/2017</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Clarified language made grammatical corrections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/1/2018</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Clarifying language</td>
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