

# **15 FAM 800 FIRE PROTECTION/INCIDENT REPORTING ABROAD**

## **15 FAM 810 SCOPE, AUTHORITY, AND GENERAL POLICIES**

*(CT:OBO-28; 03-20-2012)*  
*(Office of Origin: OBO)*

### **15 FAM 811 SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY**

#### **15 FAM 811.1 Scope**

*(CT:OBO-28; 03-20-2012)*

This subchapter provides the fire protection and incident reporting regulations that apply to U.S. Government real property abroad. Detailed requirements are provided in 15 FAM *840*. Direct questions or comments on these regulations to the *Office of Fire Protection*, in the *Directorate of Operations*, in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OPS/FIR).

#### **15 FAM 811.2 Authorities**

*(CT:OBO-28; 03-20-2012)*

Authorities are found under:

- (1) Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-596), as amended, 29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.;
- (2) Executive Order 12196, *dated February 26, 1980*, Occupational Safety and Health Programs for Federal Employees;
- (3) Basic Program Elements for Federal Employee Occupational Safety and Health Programs (29 CFR 1960);
- (4) Occupational Safety and Health Standards (29 CFR 1910 and *29 CFR* 1926);
- (5) National Fire Protection Association Codes and Standards; *and*

(6) *International Code Council Building Codes.*

**NOTE:** *Requests for clarification on authorities found in subparagraphs (5) and (6) of this section should be directed to OBO/OPS/FIR.*

## **15 FAM 812 FIRE PROTECTION POLICIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **15 FAM 812.1 Fire Emergency Action Plan**

*(CT:OBO-28; 03-20-2012)*

*Post* must complete 12 FAH-1 Annex B (Fire) of the emergency action plan as directed in 12 FAH-1 H-030 for all occupied office buildings (see 15 FAM 830). This plan will contain guidance for all personnel on appropriate actions in a fire emergency. *Post* must conduct at least one annual fire evacuation drill (see 12 FAH-1 H-765, *Post Drills*). During this drill, all personnel must evacuate the facility. Post management must also evaluate the plan's effectiveness and implement actions to improve performance whenever necessary.

### **15 FAM 812.2 Fire Inspections**

*(CT:OBO-28; 03-20-2012)*

- a. The *Office of Fire Protection*, in the *Directorate of Operations*, in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OPS/FIR) performs periodic fire and life safety inspections at *post* abroad. These inspections will supplement *post* fire emergency plan and procedures by:
  - (1) *Inspecting post* buildings for fire safety deficiencies, hazards, and maintenance items;
  - (2) Training post personnel on fire evacuation and extinguishing practices;
  - (3) Reviewing *post* maintenance and inspection of fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, fire sprinkler systems, and emergency procedures; and
  - (4) Evaluating the adequacy of exits and appropriateness of locking devices during fire and life safety inspections, and submitting recommendations to post management for corrective action as necessary.
- b. When OBO does not conduct a formal, annual inspection and training visit, post must conduct a fire inspection survey using the latest fire inspection report as a basis for the survey. Fire protection systems (i.e.,

fire alarms, fire sprinkler systems, fire pumps, and installed kitchen extinguishing systems), fire extinguishers, and egress reliability, must be checked to ensure they operate and function as installed. Management officers, USAID executive officers, general services officers, facility managers, regional security officers, supporting engineering service officers, and engineering service centers must work to correct discrepancies on a priority basis. Any technical or operational fire protection issues must be directed to the *Office of Fire Protection, in the Directorate of Operations, in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OPS/FIR)*. The *management officer/counselor* must certify to *OBO/OPS/FIR* that a *fire/life safety* inspection was conducted and include all results *1 year from the date of the last OBO fire inspection visit*.

## **15 FAM 812.3 Integrity of Fire Protection Features**

*(CT:OBO-28; 03-20-2012)*

- a. Buildings are provided with a number of features to maintain a level of fire safety for occupants. Such features include but are not limited to exits, corridors, fire alarms, sprinklers, and other installed systems. Do not impair, alter, or remove any of these features without the consent of the post occupational safety and health officer (POSHO). Notify building staff when any such feature is affected and put an alternative plan in place.
- b. All fire protection systems (such as fire alarm and automatic sprinklers) that are out of service more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period must be reported to the *Office of Fire Protection, in the Directorate of Operations, in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OPS/FIR)* within *8 hours of the impairment*. Post is responsible for establishing *fire watch procedures* during the out-of-service period. OBO/OPS/FIR will assist post as needed to provide corrective action.
- c. To ensure that adequate exiting requirements are met, the proponent of any new acquisition, new construction project, reconfiguration or change of use of an existing building or portion thereof must submit design plans in advance, to the Office of Design and Engineering, *in the Directorate of Program Development, Coordination, and Support, in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/PDCS/DE)*, and to the Fire Protection Engineering Division, in the Office of Fire Protection, *in the Directorate of Operations, in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OPS/FIR/FPE)*, for review and approval.

## **15 FAM 812.4 Fire Protection Equipment**

*(CT:OBO-28; 03-20-2012)*

- a. The *Office of Fire Protection*, in the *Directorate of Operations*, in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OPS/FIR) will provide fire extinguishers for U.S. Government-owned/long-term leased (GO/LTL) and Department of State occupied office or functional space upon request. OBO/OPS/FIR will assist in procuring, but not funding, this equipment for other agencies that do not occupy Department of State offices. Post will be responsible for annual inventory, maintenance, and repair of fire safety equipment. *Post* must request the recommended fire safety equipment from OBO/OPS/FIR and install it in appropriate locations. (See guidelines in 15 FAM 840 and in 15 FAM Exhibit 842, Fire Extinguisher Type and Placement.) OBO/OPS/FIR will provide smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and other equipment for use in all residences identified in the Real Property Application (*RPA*) *database*, regardless of the agency that occupies the residence. Post will be responsible for maintenance and repair of fire safety equipment.
- b. Post must track all OBO-supplied fire extinguishers on approved property records systems in accordance with 14 FAM 414, and inventory as required. Post must account for all stock residential smoke alarms, replacement cartridges, and extinguishing powder under the *stock control* or the *expendable supplies* requirements consistent with 14 FAM 411. Post must validate current inventory with OBO/OPS/FIR when requesting extinguishers and smoke alarms.

## **15 FAM 813 THROUGH 819 UNASSIGNED**