

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

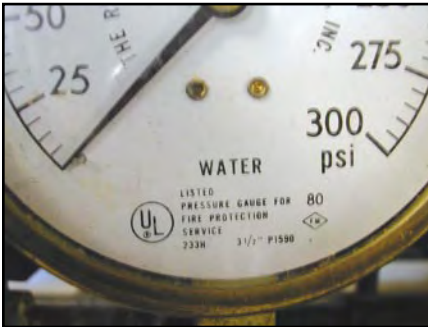
Coffee Break Training

Topic: Planned Impairments

Learning objective: The student shall be able to identify the procedures that should be implemented when a required fire protection system is out of service for repair, replacement, or other problem.

Like any electronic or mechanical device, fire protection systems require periodic maintenance to assure a high degree of reliability. Occasionally, they are damaged and need repair. Often, they need replacement or upgrades. Regardless of the reason, there are times fire protection systems are shut down on purpose.

If there is a planned shutdown, the following steps should be accomplished by the building owner or his/her authorized representative:



1. Identify the impairment's extent and expected duration.
2. Inspect and evaluate the risks in the area(s) affected by the impairment.
3. Notify the fire department, the insurance carrier, the risk manager, the alarm company, the building owner/manager, and any other person or agency that has jurisdiction.
4. Notify work supervisors in the impairment area.
5. Place identifying tags (e.g., "Out of Service") on the system or equipment.
6. Have all repair tools and personnel marshaled and ready to perform the work in as short a time as possible.
7. If the impairment is long term, consider:
 - a. Evacuating the portion(s) of the building that are out of service.
 - b. Providing a competent fire watch service.
 - c. Establishing a temporary fire protection water supply.

For additional information, refer to NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*TM, Chapter 13, or *International Fire Code*[®], Chapter 9.