



FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM IMPAIRMENT

According to the [Fire Code of North Dakota](#) pre-planned and emergency impairments to fire protection systems must adhere to the requirements listed in the following. Including Section 901.7.4 that defines the steps needed to maintain the safety of the facility.

Where a fire protection system is out of service, the fire department shall be notified immediately, and the building shall be either evacuated, or a documented, submitted, and accepted fire watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire protection system has been returned to service.

Where utilized, fire watches shall be provided with not less than one approved means for notification of the fire department and their only duty shall be to perform patrols of the premises for fire or other emergencies.

901.7 Impairment coordinator. The building owner shall assign an impairment coordinator to comply with the requirements. In the absence of a specific designee, the owner shall be the impairment coordinator.

901.7.2 Tag required. A tag shall be used to indicate that a system, or portion thereof, has been removed from service.

901.7.3 Placement of tag. The tag shall be posted at each fire department connection, system control valve, fire alarm control unit, fire alarm annunciator and fire command center, indicating which system, or part thereof, has been removed from service. The fire code official shall specify where the tag is to be placed.

901.7.4 Preplanned impairment programs. Preplanned impairments shall be authorized by the impairment coordinator. Before authorization is given, a designated individual shall be responsible for verifying that all of the following procedures have been implemented:

1. The extent and expected duration of the impairment has been determined.
2. The areas or buildings involved have been inspected and the increased risks determined.
3. Recommendation have been submitted to management of the building *owner/manager*.
4. The fire department has been notified.
5. The insurance carrier, the alarm company, the building owner/manager and other authorities having jurisdiction have been notified.

6. The supervisors in the areas to be affected have been notified.
7. A tag impairment system has been implemented.
8. Necessary tools and materials have been assembled on the impairment site.

901.7.5 Emergency impairments. Where unplanned impairments occur, appropriate emergency action shall be taken to minimize potential injury and damage. The impairment coordinator shall implement the steps outlined in Section 901.7.4.

901.7.6 Restoring systems to service. Where impaired equipment is restored to normal working order, the impairment coordinator shall verify that all of the following procedures have been implemented:

1. Necessary inspections and tests have been conducted to verify that affected systems are operational.
2. Supervisors have been advised that protection is restored.
3. The fire department has been advised that protection is restored.
4. The building *owner*/manager, insurance carrier, alarm company, and other involved parties have been advised that protection is restored.
5. The impairment tag has been removed.

Deviations from the fire codes outlined above are considered violations and could result in legal action. Please contact your local fire department or the State Fire Marshal with any questions not covered in this letter concerning impairments of your fire protection systems.