

EMERGENCY FORCES NOTIFICATION

Prompt notification of emergency responders is essential to controlling an incident involving a fire or unauthorized discharge of hazardous materials. (See Figure 4-1) In the event of an emergency, the IFC requires immediate notification of the fire department and implementation of appropriate emergency plans and procedures by employees and occupants of the building. The fire code prohibits any delay in reporting a fire as well as reporting any false alarm. [Ref. 401.3]

PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES AND EVENTS

Public assemblies and events can occur inside of buildings or outdoors. Depending on the nature of the event and the number of persons estimated to be in attendance, the fire code official is granted authority to ensure that fire and life safety is maintained. One means of ensuring that safety is maintained is the use of fire watch personnel. Depending on the jurisdiction, fire watch personnel can be any approved individual, or the jurisdiction may require the use of fire department personnel. The IFC authorizes the fire code official to deploy fire watch personnel based on the anticipated number of persons or the nature of the performance, exhibition, or activity. Fire watch personnel are responsible to maintain watch for any unwanted fire and to extinguish any incipient fire, ensuring means of egress paths and openings are maintained, and to assist in evacuating people from the event. [Ref. 403.1]

Some events can have a major impact on a community, such as the arrival of dignitaries or an annual community festival. In other than assembly and educational occupancies, the IFC allows the fire code official to develop or prescribe a public safety plan for such large events to address issues such as fire apparatus access, emergency medical response, law enforcement, and similar issues. (See Figure 4-2) [Ref. 403.2]



FIGURE 4-1 Immediate notification of a fire or hazardous material release will result in a response by the fire department



FIGURE 4-2 A large community event such as this music festival may require the preparation of a public safety plan to protect festival participants