



Miami Beach Fire Department
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
STANDARDS



TOPIC: Tampering with Fire Safety Equipment

STANDARD NO: EXINSP -S03
Revision 0

In the past, we have encountered residents or visitors who disable a fire alarm notification appliance due to false or nuisance alarms. This FPS will provide a quick reference of the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC) and Florida Statute addressing such action that renders any component of a fire safety system inoperable.

The owner or representative of the building is responsible for maintaining all fire safety systems in operation and in accordance with applicable fire codes. In the event that any portable or fixed fire protection system is tampered and rendered inoperable, the fire inspector will write a violation to the owner or representative under FFPC, NFPA 1, Section 10.8. The owner must take action to correct the problem.

10.8.1 No person shall render any portable or fixed fire extinguishing system or device or any fire warning system inoperative or inaccessible.

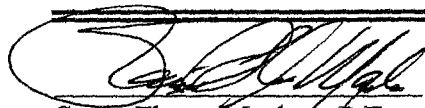
10.8.3 No person shall remove, unlock, destroy, or tamper with in any manner any locked gate, door, or barricade, chain, enclosure, sign, tag, or seal that has been required by the AHJ.

In addition to the above violation, an individual who tampers with any portable or fixed fire safety system to make the system inoperable or inaccessible is committing a criminal offense under Florida Statute 806. The sections below identify the criminal offense and penalty under Florida Law.

806.10 Preventing or obstructing extinguishment of fire.--

(1) Any person who willfully and maliciously injures, destroys, removes, or in any manner interferes with the use of, any vehicles, tools, equipment, water supplies, hydrants, towers, buildings, communication facilities, or other instruments or facilities used in the detection, reporting, suppression, or extinguishment of fire shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(2) Any person who willfully or unreasonably interferes with, hinders, or assaults, or attempts to interfere with or hinder, any firefighter in the performance of his or her duty shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.


Sonia Flores Machen, P.E.
Fire Marshal

7/15/09
Date Issued