

Use of Smoke/Fog or Open Flame in Productions

Productions with artificial smoke/fog or open flames require special handling because of the potential for activation of the fire protection system. Ohio Fire Code provides guidance for the deactivation of fire protection systems.

Open Flame

The use of open flame (candles, pyrotechnics, etc.) is not permitted on BGSU property, except as outlined in the OPEN FLAME policy found on the Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) website under Life and Fire Safety. The use of open flame as part of an event would need approval from EH&S at least 2 weeks prior to the event. If approval for use is granted from EH&S, the next step is to coordinate with Campus Operations as outlined below.

Atmospheric Effects (Smoke/Fog/Haze)

The use of atmospheric effects, such as smoke, fog, or haze, may activate the fire protection system. Any use of such effects must be coordinated with Campus Operations at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

Fire Protection System

The use of atmospheric effects or open flames may require the disabling of the fire protection system to avoid activation during the production/event, and implementation of a fire watch while the system is impaired.

- When an event is planned using atmospheric effects or open flame, an email requesting an evaluation must be sent to Campus Operations at least two weeks in advance of the event. Campus Operations will review the activity and determine if the fire protection system needs to be deactivated. If open flame is to be used, approval from EH&S must be received prior to contacting Campus Operations.

- If it is determined the fire protection system will need to be disabled, the cost for implementing fire watch will be billable to the event. Fire watch requires a fire alarm technician and a second individual to monitor the building. The cost can vary depending on the duration, number of individuals needed, etc., but the average cost is \$100/hour. Campus Operations will provide more detailed costs as part of the event review.
- On the day of the event, the fire alarm tech will arrive on scene and locate the contact person.
- After confirming with the contact person that the activity is still planned as part of the performance, the fire alarm tech will contact BG Fire Division and BGSU Police stating that a fire watch is being initiated.
- The fire alarm system will be partially disabled, however; the manual pull stations, heat detectors and speaker/strobes will remain active. During fire watch, the fire command center must be manned by a fire alarm tech at all times. A dedicated person will walk the building with a radio or phone in order to provide an immediate means of communication with the fire command center.
- After the performance and the smoke has cleared, by either waiting or usage of the fire fans, the fire alarm system will be put back to normal. Campus Operations will notify BG Fire Division and BGSU Police that the fire watch has been terminated and the fire alarm system is back to normal.
- Additional details on the fire watch process can be found on the Environmental Health and Safety website under Life and Fire Safety.