

ZONE DISABLE POLICY FOR USE OF COLD SMOKE EFFECTS IN THEATERS

Division: Finance & Management**Date Established:** 04/01/2008**Responsible Office:** Environmental Health & Safety**Date Last Revised:** 04/22/2026**Date Posted to Library:** 04/01/2026

POLICY SUMMARY

This policy describes temporary measures to disable stage and first level audience detectors (fire protection systems) to allow the use of cold smoke effects at SUNY Buffalo State.

POLICY STATEMENT

Temporary measures may be taken to disable stage and first level audience detectors when using cold smoke effects in Rockwell and Upton Halls. These actions should prevent an unintentional activation of the fire alarm system and maintain compliance with the Fire Code of the State of New York, Chapter 9, and "Fire Protection Systems."

RESPONSIBILITIES**Environmental Health & Safety Office**

The Environmental Health & Safety Office shall define this policy as needed.

Production stage managers

Responsibility for implementation of this policy rests with the stage manager for the production in which cold smoke effects are planned.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies when the use of cold smoke effects is planned for events in SUNY Buffalo State theaters.

RELATED PROCEDURES

1. Thirty minutes prior to an event where cold smoke effects are planned, the stage manager must contact the following:
 - a. University Police Department (716-878-6333)
 - b. City of Buffalo Fire Department (716-851-5510)
 - c. Local code enforcement official (currently Nancy Van Voorhees, 716-863-9385)
2. When the system is intentionally disabled a fire watch must be initiated and shall not cease until the functionality of the fire system is fully restored. The person(s) tasked with performing the fire watch are expected to patrol the area of the building that is lacking the proper fire system coverage. Said person(s) shall not be tasked with any other responsibility other than performing the fire watch. The person(s) must also have an

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immediate means of communication with the University Police Department. The designated fire watch must be aware of the location of the nearest fire alarm pull stations.

3. The designated fire watch is on duty until the system is manually reset.
4. Prior to resetting the system, the stage manager should confirm with the fire watch that the smoke effect is complete and smoke has been dissipated.
5. Stage manager will call the University Police Department and the City of Buffalo Fire Department to notify both parties when the system is back in service.

RELATED INFORMATION

Related Links:

Applicable codes: [The Fire Code of New York State, Chapter 9: Fire Protection Systems](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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APPROVAL

Approved prior to 2016

REVISION HISTORY

Date of change: 03/27/2015

Brief description of edit: Adapted to standard template

Date of change: 05/05/2026

Brief description of edit: Adapted to ADA compliant template