INTRODUCTION

False alarms are disruptive to the teaching and research mission of the University and contribute to a dangerous complacency in occupants, who may be slower to evacuate in an actual emergency. Contractors and construction managers can help prevent false alarms by taking the following measures prior to and during construction. A pre-construction meeting specifically for false alarms should be conducted to discuss preventative measures.

TEMPORARY FIRE PARTITIONS AND DUST BARRIERS

Review bid documents and specifications to establish what types of temporary fire partition and dust barrier measures are necessary for the specific job site. Barriers should be erected and inspected prior to any demolition.

DISCUSS PROJECT RELATED FALSE ALARMS

If the project has caused a false alarm, the incident must be reviewed and measures taken to prevent reoccurrence. This discussion should take place at the regular project construction meeting.

PLACING SYSTEM IN SERVICE

For new buildings or substantial tenant improvements, the fire alarm system should not be placed in service until the building is cleaned and painted or other dust producing activities completed (contractual “final clean”).

Once the fire alarm system has been accepted by the fire department, all smoke detector covers should be removed prior to placing the system in service as the act of removing the cover may trip the alarm.