

# Fire Safety Inspection - Frequently Asked Questions

## Why am I receiving a fire safety inspection?

*The Fire Code and Health and Safety Code mandates that local fire agencies conduct fire safety inspections in certain occupancies. These include places of public assembly, apartment communities, high rise buildings, industrial uses, etc. The purpose of these inspections is to assure a minimum level of safety for the building occupants, as well as to protect adjacent properties who may be affected by an incident on your property.*

## What are the benefits of having a fire safety inspection?

*Most business owners do not have the specialized knowledge necessary to conduct a fire and life safety inspection of their business. Nor do they realize the devastating effects that a fire or hazardous materials incident can have on their business. Business failure rates after a significant fire can be as high as 70 or 80 percent. Your best bet is to be prepared not to have the fire to begin with.*

## How much time will I have to make any necessary fire safety corrections?

*The amount of time you will need to make corrections depends on the severity of the problem. Some violations of the fire code are so severe that they must be corrected immediately. Others make take weeks or even months to correct. Consult with your fire inspector concerning the amount of time which is appropriate to make corrections.*

## What are the typical fire safety violations that might be found?

*Typical Fire Code violations include:*

1. *Fire extinguishers that have not been serviced annually or low on charge.*
  - *Extinguishers need to be serviced and ready for use in the event of a fire.*
2. *Blocked or locked exit doors.*
  - *The building occupants will need exit doors to be available in the event of an emergency.*
3. *Extension cords used in place of permanent wiring methods.*
  - *Extension cords are not manufactured to handle the same amperage loads as permanent wiring methods. Cords need to be unplugged and stored until the next use.*
4. *Address or suite numbers not posted.*
  - *The Fire Department will need to find your building if you have a fire or other emergency. Address numbers should be 12 inches tall for industrial uses, 8 inches for commercial, 6 inches for residential, and 3 inches for individual suite numbers.*

5. *Exit signs missing or not illuminated.*

- *Exit signs show you to location of exits in the event of a power failure.*

6. *Sprinkler systems not serviced and up to date.*

- *A properly operating sprinkler system is essential in putting out a fire.*

7. *Fire alarm systems not serviced and up to date.*

- *Fire alarm systems notify the building occupants of the emergency situation so that the building can be evacuated.*

8. *Open electrical boxes or exposed wiring.*

- *Exposed wiring poses an electrocution hazard to the occupants and emergency personnel.*

9. *Placards not posted indicating hazard rating of materials.*

- *NFPA placards tell the Fire Department when you have flammables or other hazardous chemicals in the event of a fire.*

10. *Improper handling or storage of flammable materials.*

- *Improper use or handling of flammable materials can be the cause of a fire.*

**Will I be billed for this service?**

*Yes. The City must recover the costs of this inspection program. Your permit will be mailed after receipt of payment for our inspection services.*

**Can I be cited if I don't comply?**

*Yes. Though rare, it is possible that you could be fined if you do not make necessary corrections.*

**Are there any other fees involved in a fire safety inspection?**

*If excessive return inspections are conducted without correcting violations, you may be charged a reinspection fee.*