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## **Annual Business Fire Safety Inspection Fact Sheet**

### **What is an Annual Business Fire Safety Inspection?**

Every business within the District will receive an annual Fire Safety Inspection from Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District staff. The purpose of the inspection is to ensure that your business is kept in a safe condition for you, your employees, and your customers.

### **Will I be notified?**

Not always. But, you are always able to schedule your inspection with us at a time that is convenient for you.

### **What will the inspection consist of?**

There are many common safety issues that we find when reviewing businesses in the area, and most are simply oversights that you may not consider. The Fire Safety Inspection will be completed using the current edition of the International Fire Code adopted by the Town of Frederick and the Town of Firestone. A list of the most common fire safety issues are listed below.

### **What will happen if I have a fire code violation?**

If a fire code violation(s) is identified during your Fire Safety Inspection, you will be given two-weeks to get the fire code violation(s) corrected. At the time of the first inspection, the second fire code re-inspection will be scheduled.

At the second Fire Safety Inspection, it will be verified that the fire code violation(s) was corrected. If the fire code violation(s) has not be corrected, another re-inspection will be scheduled at a fire code inspection rate of \$88.00. This inspection rate will continue with all additional inspections that have to be scheduled.

In the event the fire code violation continues, a municipal summons may be issued to ensure the fire code violation(s) are corrected.

### **Additional Questions?**

We want to help you and our community be as fire aware and fire safe as possible and assist you in your continued success in our community. If you have additional questions, please contact our Administration Offices at 303-833-2742, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Thank you,

*Steve Iacino*

Assistant Chief/Fire Marshall  
Frederick Firestone Fire Protection District

Some common fire safety issues previously found in area businesses that you should check in your own business include:

#### Business Exterior

- Fire hydrant(s) must have 36" of unobstructed clearance on all sides.
- The building/unit address must be clearly visible from the street/nearest approach
- The means of access to the property must be free of obstruction for access by emergency vehicles
- An approved Knox Box must be provided on the exterior of the building and contain a labeled master key that will access exterior doors of the entire building/unit.

#### Signage

- The Occupancy Load for the business/area must be posted. If required

#### Exits and Stairwells

- The minimum exit width is 36". Obstruction to exits shall not be placed in the required width and exits shall not be obstructed in any manner.
- Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated at all times.
- The means of egress, including the exit, shall be illuminated at all times that the building space is occupied

#### Electrical and gas appliances

- 36" of clear space must be maintained around all electrical panels, disconnects, and all gas appliances.
- Improper use of extension cords – Extension cords cannot be used in place of permanent wiring. Only one UL listed 6' power strip is allowed per electrical outlet.

#### Fire Extinguishers

- All fire extinguishers must be properly stored and mounted between 3' to 5' from the floor.
- All fire extinguishers must be properly inspected and properly tagged by a licensed inspector annually.
- Kitchen hood fire suppression systems must be tested and inspected every six months.
- NOTE:** If you or your staff is interested in fire extinguisher training please visit our website at [www.fffd.us](http://www.fffd.us). Go to the Community Involvement Icon, select Education Programs, and select Fire Extinguisher Training – Online.
- For further information or questions that you or your staff have regarding fire extinguishers please feel free to ask the firefighters during your annual fire code inspection.

#### Fire Alarm, Sprinkler & Standpipe Systems

- Clear access to operation of all valves must be maintained
- All sprinkler heads shall be free of paint
- Storage shall be 2 feet or more below the ceiling in non-sprinklered areas of buildings or a minimum of 18" below sprinkler head in sprinklered areas of buildings.
- Storage in open areas shall not exceed 20 feet in height.
- All fire alarm systems, fire sprinkler systems, backflow preventers and other fire suppression systems must be inspected by a qualified technician annually.

### Storage of Combustibles and Flammables

- All combustible liquids must be stored in a UL listed storage cabinet
- All flammables and combustibles must be kept away from all ignition sources.
- All flammable and combustible storage containers must be sealed and labeled as to their contents

### Fire Resistive Construction

- Fire doors and assemblies shall not be modified
- Fire doors and smoke barriers doors shall not be blocked or obstructed or otherwise made inoperable. No door wedges or fold feet are allowed in rated corridors. **NOTE:** This only applies to non-fire sprinkler assemblies
- Swinging fire doors shall close from the fully open position and latch automatically. The door closer shall exert enough to close and latch the door from any partial open position
- Horizontal and vertical sliding and rolling fire doors shall be inspected and tested annually to confirm proper operation and full closure. A written record shall be maintained and be available for review
- When magnetic hold-open devices on fire doors are out of service the door shall remain in the closed position
- Curtains, draperies, hangings and other decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall be flame resistant. This is to include all furniture and fabric materials
- Fire-resistive assemblies including drywall, masonry brick, roof assemblies and ceiling tile shall in good repair.
- Openings through fire-resistive assemblies shall be protected by self-closing or automatic closing doors