

City of Washington Court House Fire Department FIRE SAFETY AND RISK REDUCTION TIPS FOR BUSINESSES

Below is a list of code requirements that are checked during a fire safety inspection. The number after each item represents the Ohio Fire Code. This is not an all-inclusive list, but rather a list of the most common concerns and best practices to assist you in maintaining a safe environment and/or preparing for a fire safety inspection.

Most of the wording used in this document is pulled directly from the Ohio Fire Code. Therefore, the wording might seem a bit harsh. We would like to assure you that the goal of the Washington Court House Fire Department is to help reduce risks in our community. If you would like an inspection, please contact us at the number located at the end of this document. Risk Reduction (Fire Safety) Inspections are free!

Fire Service Access

- Address numbers are to be displayed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street fronting the property. The numbers shall be a minimum of four inches tall and a contrasting color to the background. Businesses in strip malls shall also have the address displayed on the rear door. – 505.1
- Fire lanes are not permitted to be obstructed. – 503.4
- A clear space of three feet shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants. – 507.5.5
- Where access to or within a structure is restricted or immediate access is necessary for life saving or firefighting purposes the fire inspector may require a key box be installed in an approved location. – 506.1

Means of Egress/Exits

- Exit pathways shall remain free of obstructions at all times. – 1003.6
- The means of egress, including exit discharge, shall be illuminated at all times during the times the building is occupied. – 1008.2
- Egress doors shall be readily operable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort. – 1010.1.9
- The unlatching of any door or leaf shall not require more than one operation. – 1010.1.9.5
- Egress doors installed with locks or latches shall remain unlocked during business hours and shall have signage stating, “THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN BUILDING IS OCCUPIED”. – 1010.1.9.3(b)(ii)
- Exit signs are required to be internally and externally illuminated at all times, bulbs and battery backup are to be maintained. – 1013.3, 1013.6.2 and 1013.6.3

Fire Protection

- Fire and smoke barrier doors shall not be blocked or obstructed or otherwise made inoperable. - 703.2
- Fire resistance-rated construction (including walls, fire stops, shaft enclosures, partitions, smoke barriers, fire-resistive coatings and sprayed fire-resistive materials applied to structural members) shall be maintained. – 703.1
- Horizontal and vertical sliding and rolling fire doors shall be inspected and tested annually. A written record shall be maintained and be available to the fire code official upon request. – 703.4

Fire Protection Systems

- Fire detection system, alarm and extinguishing systems shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and shall be replaced or repaired where defective. – 901.6
- All fire suppression related devices or systems shall have annual inspection and testing. Records shall be maintained for the life of the system and available upon request by fire code official. – 901.6.1 through 901.6.2.1
- Portable fire extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured from view. – 906.6
- Hand-held portable fire extinguishers, not housed in cabinets, shall be installed on the hangers or brackets supplied. Extinguishers weighing 40 pounds or less shall be mounted so the top is no higher than 5 feet above the floor. Extinguishers weighing more than 40 pounds shall be mounted so the top is no more than 3.5 feet above the floor. All extinguishers shall be mounted so the bottom is no less than 4 inches off the floor. – 906.7, 906.9.1, 906.9.2, and 906.9.3
- Automatic fire-extinguishing systems (kitchen hood systems) shall be serviced at least every six months and after activation of the system. – 904.12.6.2
- Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided within a thirty foot travel distance of commercial type cooking equipment. Cooking equipment involving solid fuels or vegetable or animal oils and fats shall be protected by a Class K rated portable extinguisher. – 904.12.5
- Fire Department Connections (FDCs) shall be indicated by an approved sign. Such sign shall have the letters “FDC” not less than six (6) inches high. – 912.2.2
 - Where not located on or directly in front of the building or where in a questionable location not easily identifiable the address of the occupancy/occupancies being served shall be posted at or near the FDC.
- A working space of not less than 36” in width, 36” in depth and 78” in height shall be provided around fire department connections. – 912.4.2

Electrical

- A working space of not less than 30" in width, 36" in depth and 78" in height shall be provided in front of electrical service equipment. – 605.3
- Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring. Extension or flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors or under doors or floor coverings nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact. – 605.5
- Portable power taps shall be of the polarized or grounded type, equipped with overcurrent protection and shall be listed in accordance with UL 1363. – 605.4.1
- Open junction boxes and open-wiring splices shall be prohibited. Approved covers shall be provided for all switch and electrical outlet boxes. – 605.6

Housekeeping

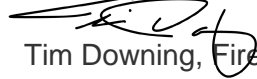
- Storage of combustible materials in buildings shall be orderly. Storage shall be separated from heaters and heating devices by distance or shielding so ignition cannot occur. – 315.3
- Storage shall be maintained 2 feet or more below the ceiling in non-sprinklered areas of buildings or a minimum of 18 inches below sprinkler head deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings. – 315.3.1
- Combustible materials shall not be stored in exits or exit enclosures. – 315.3.2
- Combustible materials shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms. – 315.3.3
- Attic, under-floor and concealed spaces used for storage of combustible materials shall be protected on the storage side as required for 1 hour fire-resistance rated construction. – 315.3.4
- Materials susceptible to spontaneous ignition, such as oily rags, shall be stored in a listed disposal container and shall be removed daily. – 304.3.1
- Dumpsters or containers with an individual capacity of 1.5 cubic yards or more shall not be stored in buildings or placed within 5 feet of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines. – 304.3.3
- Compressed gas containers, cylinders and tanks shall be secured to prevent falling caused by contact, vibration or seismic activity. – 5303.5.3

Hazardous Materials

- Shelf storage of flammable and combustible liquids shall be maintained in an orderly manner and non-compatible materials are required to be separated. – 5704.3.3.5.3

Thank you for taking an interest in keeping our community safe by reading this document. As a community partner, we feel it is important that you have access to the information you need to maintain a safe environment for you and your customers. We hope the information above was helpful. Please remember, a lot of the wording is that which you would find in the Ohio Fire Code. If you would like a free inspection or have any questions or concerns, please call us at 740-636-2362.

Sincerely,



Tim Downing, Fire Chief



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