



Cedarburg Fire and Rescue

W61 N631 Mequon Ave • PO Box 327 • Cedarburg, WI 53012
Station – (262)375-7630 • Fax – (262)375-9203

Common Violations Found on Fire Inspections

The following list is meant to provide basic information on what is checked on a fire inspection. This list includes only some of what fire inspectors look for, and does not include everything. Everything on this list comes from the 2012 edition of NFPA 1, *Fire Code*, which is the current edition adopted by the State of Wisconsin and City of Cedarburg.

All occupancies:

- **Use of extension cords**
 - Extension cords may only be used for temporary use (up to 90 days before they have to be removed)
 - Extension cords cannot, at any time, be run through walls, doorways, windows or openings in them.
 - Power strips or permanent wiring can be used in place of extension cords
 - Extension cords that are in need of repair or damaged to the point that it could cause a fire, shall be replaced.
 - Power strips cannot be plugged into each other, also known as daisy-chaining
- **Exit lights and emergency lights are not in working order**
 - This could be either burnt out light bulbs, bad wiring, or simply old age
 - We strongly suggest replacing any exit lights older than 10 years
 - New LED exit and emergency lights can save you money on energy costs and not having to replace bulbs continually
 - All exit and emergency lights need a battery backup in case of power outages (test buttons on the fixtures test the battery backup) and batteries should be changed regularly
- **Exit or passageways to exits are blocked**
 - There should be a minimum 36-inch-wide clear path to every exit to allow enough room for multiple people to get through
 - Paths may be required to be wider in certain occupancy types
 - There should be at least 10 feet of clearance outside of an exit
 - All exit doors shall be kept unlocked during occupancy
 - Snow shall be cleared to all exterior exits to allow for easy egress in the case of an emergency
- **Fire extinguishers**
 - Extinguishers must be inspected annually by a licensed inspector or inspection agency, and are good for 1 year from the date of inspection, or until used/discharged
 - A clear 36-inch path should be kept to and around every extinguisher and shall be kept readily visible

- The gauge must be in the green, extinguisher must be inspected and recharged if it is not
- If the extinguisher does not have an inspection tag, it must be re-inspected
- **Storage by appliances**
 - 36-inch clearance shall be kept between combustible storage/items and furnaces, water heaters, and electrical panels

Restaurants or occupancies with commercial kitchen appliances:

- **Hood systems**
 - Kitchen Hood systems should be inspected and cleaned at least twice per year
 - Inspections and cleanings are dependent on build-up and may be done less frequently than annually depending on average build-up of grease – determined by the Fire Department
 - Cleaning/inspection must be done by certified kitchen hood system cleaner/inspector
 - Hood suppression systems should be inspected annually and be tagged similar to fire extinguishers; inspection is good for one year from date inspected
- **Fire Extinguishers**
 - A K-rated fire extinguisher should be installed in the kitchen and follow all code requirements of fire extinguishers

Buildings equipped with fire alarm and/or sprinkler systems:

- **Fire alarm systems**
 - Fire alarm systems shall be inspected annually by a licensed alarm inspection company/inspector
 - Inspection records shall be posted at the Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) for the inspector to see
 - Occupancies should conduct drills and system tests once per month using a different detector/pull station each time (if possible)
- **Sprinkler systems**
 - Sprinkler systems shall be inspected in accordance with NFPA 13 or NFPA 13R
 - Inspection records shall be posted at the Sprinkler Riser for the inspector to see
 - Spare sprinkler heads shall be kept in an approved container by the sprinkler riser
 - Any leak found in any part of the system requires repair and inspection of entire system
 - All storage shall be kept at least 18 inches from the ceiling in buildings with sprinkler heads

Buildings with storage:

- **Storage heights**
 - Storage shall be kept at least 24 inches from the ceiling in buildings not equipped with automatic sprinklers
 - Storage shall be kept at least 18 inches from the ceiling in buildings equipped with automatic sprinklers
- **Aisles/Paths**
 - 36 inch clear aisles and paths shall be kept clear to allow immediate and unimpeded egress

For any questions regarding fire inspections, you can call us at 262-375-7632, or email us at cfdinspectionbureau@gmail.com.