

The Oberlin Fire Prevention Bureau's Fire Safety Inspectors conduct inspections during the construction and remodeling phase of both new and existing buildings. Inspections are conducted from the beginning through completion of the project to ensure all fire code requirements are met.

We conduct routine fire safety inspections of all businesses in the City of Oberlin including public and private buildings, daycare and eldercare centers, foster homes, hospitals, hotels and motels, and other buildings upon request or complaint.

We inspect fire sprinkler, fire alarm and fire protection systems, fire hydrants, fire apparatus access, spray-booths, exit doors and other construction features to ensure compliance with current fire and life safety codes.

The Fire Prevention Bureau also investigates complaints related to locked or blocked exits, over-crowding, illegal burning, improper use of recreational fires, illegal use and sale of fireworks, illegal business operations, obstructed fire lanes and other fire and life safety issues.

We urge you to contact the Fire Prevention Bureau if you have a concern regarding fire and life safety.



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Fire Prevention – Public Education

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Most Common Deficiencies Found During Fire Inspections



Oberlin Fire
Department
(440) 774-3211

**EMERGENCY
DIAL 9-1-1**

The list provided below only identifies common problems found during a large percentage of our fire inspections. If a business or property owner complies with these items, they will take a large step towards having an inspection with no deficiencies.

1. Portable fire extinguishers must be inspected and tagged by a State of Ohio licensed technician every 12 months; replaced when missing or stolen; recharged when units have been discharged; and accessible at all times. We require a 2A:10BC fire extinguisher every 75 feet of travel. Do not allow any company to remove your extinguisher from your business without leaving you an extinguisher for your premises.
2. Emergency egress lighting systems are to be maintained so that they work. These units should be momentarily tested for correct operations every month and load tested for at least 30 minutes every year.
3. Missing or burnt out light bulbs within "EXIT" signs or lights must be replaced so that they are internally illuminated during hours of business. Apartments must have their "EXIT" signs or lights illuminated at all times.
4. The fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems must be inspected every 6 to 12 months by a State of Ohio licensed technician, complete with a report forwarded to the Fire Prevention Bureau.
5. Extension cords and multi-plug devices are prohibited in commercial occupancies. Using fused outlet strips that plug directly into the wall outlet are acceptable.
6. There must be a clearance access of at least 30 inches around electrical panels. We suggest marking the floor with yellow paint or tape.
7. Storage of combustibles is prohibited within 24 inches of the ceiling or within 18 inches of a sprinkler head.
8. Holes in walls or ceilings must be repaired. All ceiling tiles in suspended ceilings must be in place and fit snugly around any penetrations.
9. Damaged doors and their hardware must be repaired, replaced and maintained when they are part of a required fire separation. Examples include: doors in stairwells, doors between offices and their warehouses or shops, storage, electrical, mechanical, and laundry room doors. These doors are to close automatically from the full open position and latch in the closed position. These doors may only be held open with an approved magnetic hold open device attached to the building's fire alarm system. These doors cannot be wedged in the open position.
10. Exit hallways, stairwells and doors must be kept free of obstructions. These areas must remain free of combustible storage such as furniture, cardboard boxes, paper and lumber.
11. Fire alarm panels, fire sprinklers and standpipe connections as well as fire sprinkler valves must be accessible at all times. There shall be no storage of materials in these areas.
12. Outside Fire Department sprinkler connections and Fire Lanes must be kept free of obstructions. Examples include shopping carts, pallets, cardboard bales, delivery vehicles and merchandise.
13. An address number, four inches high with a ½ inch stroke, must be provided for the front of the building. If the business has a back door it must be labeled on the outside with the business name or address.
14. Combustible storage must be kept out of the boiler, electrical, furnace, mechanical, elevator and laundry rooms. Propane cylinders larger than one pound may not be stored inside a building.