



Waubeka Fire Department, Inc.

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Fire Inspection Division
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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 the NFPA 1, *Fire Code*, which is the current edition adopted by the State of Wisconsin and Town of Fredonia.

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 thru 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 burned 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 by 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.
 - 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 a re-inspected.

WISCONSIN CERTIFIED FIRE INSPECTORS

William Koeppen

Fred Ringle

Peter Wagner

- **Storage by Appliance**
 - A 36-inch clearance shall be kept between combustible storage/items and furnaces, water heater, 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 cleaning 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.
 - A K-rated fire extinguisher should be installed in the kitchen and follow all code requirements of fire extinguisher.

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 the entire system.
 - All storage shall be kept at least 18 inches from the ceiling in building with sprinkler heads.

Building 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 262-692-2656 (Ext 102), or email us at fireinsp@waubekafiredept.com