



Municipality of the County of Pictou Department of Emergency Services

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Department of Emergency Services
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"Top Ten" Common Deficiencies Found During Fire Inspections

1. Portable fire extinguishers shall be inspected and tagged by qualified (licensed) personnel every 12 months, replaced when missing or stolen, recharged when they have been used, and accessible at all times.
2. Emergency lighting systems shall be maintained in working order. These systems shall be tested for correct operation every month and load tested for at least 30 minutes every 12 months.
3. Missing or burnt out light bulbs within "EXIT" signs, shall be replaced so they are illuminated during hours of business. Apartment buildings shall have "EXIT" signs illuminated at all times.
4. Fire Alarm Systems and Sprinkler Systems must be inspected every 12 months by a qualified technician, complete with a report forwarded to the local Fire Inspector's office.
5. Holes in walls or ceilings where partitions are required as fire separations must be repaired. Examples of these are: walls or ceilings within public corridors or between residential suites, stairwells, service rooms, boiler rooms, electrical rooms, elevator rooms, storage and laundry rooms.
6. Damaged doors and their hardware must be repaired, replaced and maintained when they are part of a means of egress or required fire separation. Examples of these doors include: doors within public corridors and stairwells, apartment suite doors, doors between offices and their warehouses and/or shops, service, storage, electrical and laundry room doors. These doors are to close automatically from the full-open position and latch in the closed position. These doors can only be held open with an approved hold-open device attached to the building's fire alarm system. These doors cannot be wedged in the open position.
7. Required "EXIT" hallways, stairwells and doors must be kept free of obstructions. These areas are to remain free of combustible storage such as furniture, cardboard boxes, paper and lumber.
8. Fire Alarm Panels, Fire Sprinklers and Standpipe Connections, Fire Department Connections and Fire Sprinkler Valves, must be accessible at all times.
9. An approved Civic # must be provided for every building, bay or business as per Local Municipal By-Laws or Provincial EMO Guidelines.
10. Combustible storage must be kept out of boiler, electrical, furnace, and laundry rooms as well as elevator rooms.

This list only identifies common deficiencies found during a large percentage of fire inspections. If a business or property owner complies with the items listed above, they will be taking a large step towards having an inspection with little or no deficiencies.

Regards
Jason LaGreca
Fire Inspector, Municipality of the County of Pictou