



Iowa City Fire Department



Fire Self-Inspection Checklist

Disclaimer: This checklist is intended for informational purposes only to assist a business owner/manager of a business. The checklist contains basic life safety items examined for a typical business inspection. The list is not exhaustive and the Iowa City Fire Department reserves the right to inspect for compliance with any applicable codes adopted by the City of Iowa City.

Access & Premises

- Are address numbers for the building clearly visible from the street?
- Is exterior fire department access unobstructed?
- If applicable, does your Knox Box have current access keys?
- Is there maintained a minimum 3' clearance around fire hydrants?

Egress

- Are the exit ways and doors easily recognizable, unobstructed, and maintained functional?
- If the main exit door is provided with key-locking hardware as allowed by code, is there a sign above the door that states "THIS DOOR MUST REMAIN UNLOCKED DURING BUSINESS HOURS"?
- Are the other required exit doors readily opened from the inside without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort?
- Are the exits and exit enclosures free from the storage of combustibile materials?
- Are doors with self-closing hinges (Fire Doors) maintained in the closed position (not blocked open)?

Electrical

- Are all electrical outlets, switches and junction boxes properly covered with cover plates and is the electrical system safe from any apparent shock and/or other electrical hazards?
- Is the area maintained clear at least 30" in front of electrical panel(s)?
- Are extension cords used only for temporary use?

- If multiple items need to be plugged in, is a surge protector utilized with a built-in circuit breaker and is the surge protector plugged directly into a receptacle?

Emergency Lighting

- If emergency lighting is provided, is it maintained in operable condition?
- Is the means of egress illuminated when the building or structure is occupied?

Exit Signs

- If exit signs are required, are they maintained illuminated or self-luminous?
- Does the backup-battery work (push the test button and the exit sign should illuminate under battery power)?

Fire Alarm System

- If the building is equipped with a fire alarm system, has the required annual functional test been performed and a record posted?

Fire Extinguishers

- Is there access to fire extinguisher(s) rated minimum 2A-10BC?
- Is the travel distance from all portions of the building less than 75-ft. to a fire extinguisher?
- Are all fire extinguishers visible and accessible (not blocked)?
- Have the fire extinguisher(s) been serviced and tagged by a fire extinguisher company within the last 12 months?
- Are the fire extinguisher(s) properly mounted? (Proper locations-near exit doors where possible, not exceeding maximum travel distance, properly mounted maximum 5-FT. high if greater than 40 lbs., maximum 3 ½' high if less than 40 lbs. In all cases, minimum 4" above the floor).

Fire/Smoke Separations

- Are the fire/smoke separations (automatic smoke doors, fire doors, firewalls, etc.) maintained and in working condition?

Fire Suppression Systems

- Is the top of storage maintained a minimum 18" below head deflectors in fire-sprinklered areas?
- If the building is equipped with a fire sprinkler system, has the required annual service of the fire sprinkler system been performed in the last year by a qualified sprinkler company?

- In commercial cooking applications, has the hood suppression system been serviced in the last six months and is the hood cleaned at intervals to prevent the accumulation of grease?

Housekeeping

- Is combustible rubbish that is stored in containers outside of vaults or rooms removed from the building a minimum of once each working day?
- Are oily rags or similar materials stored in metal, metal-lined or other approved containers equipped with tight-fitting covers?
- Are combustible decorations flame retardant?

Mechanical Hazards

- Is the venting for exhaust products of combustion intact for gas appliances (like water heaters, furnaces, etc.)?
- Are safe clearances maintained between gas-fired appliances (such as water heaters, furnaces, etc.) and combustible materials?

Smoke Detection

- Where battery operated smoke detectors are used, have the batteries been replaced at least yearly?
- If smoke detection is required in common areas such as corridors and basements, have they been functionally tested in the last year?

Storage of Combustibles

- Is the storage of combustible materials orderly?
- Are combustible materials not stored beneath the building or structure?
- Are rubbish containers over 5 1/3 cubic feet (40 gallons) provided with lids and made of noncombustible construction?
- Are dumpsters that are 1.5 cubic yards or more not stored inside the building and placed more than 5' from combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines?

Storage of Compressed Gas

- If you have compressed gas containers (CO₂, helium, etc.), are they chained to prevent falling?

Storage of Flammable & Combustible Liquids

- Are quantities in excess of 10 gallons of flammable and combustible liquids used for maintenance purposes and the operation of equipment stored in liquid storage cabinets or in red metal safety cans, which cannot be stored in an exit egress or basement?