

Dear Building/Business Owner,

Your business or property may be scheduled for a routine fire inspection. Please take a few moments to review the list of hazards commonly found during inspections and survey your building for similar issues. Taking proactive action to abate hazardous can help ensure a smooth review and provide a safer environment for your business and customers. Your inspector should arrive on the scheduled date and inspection time. If you need to reschedule the date or time, please contact us 24 hours in advance at 507-328-2800.

Routine fire inspections reduce fires and associated losses, including death and injury. Our inspectors find and abate numerous fire hazards every year, and some can be serious. Since fire damage can affect adjacent buildings and offices, a comprehensive, educational-based code enforcement program will benefit everyone living and working in Rochester.

What Can I Expect During the Inspection?

Upon arrival the inspector will make contact with yourself, your representative, or site contact. From there the inspector and contact will walk through the entire property to look for any obvious fire code violations. The inspector will not active fire alarm systems during this process. During the inspection the inspector will keep notes of any violations observed as well as appropriate corrective measures.

At the end of the inspection, the inspector will review any violations noted and provide an appropriate timeframe to make corrections. A copy of the report will be provided at the end of the inspection. For more information, please visit www.rochestermn.gov/government/departments/fire/fire-marshal-s-office. If you have questions, contact us by email at firemarshalsoffice@rochestermn.gov or by calling 507-328-2800.

Common Fire Inspection Violations:

1. Not providing proper building address identification to include suite or unit numbers that are visible and contrasting to the background color.
2. The storage of combustible materials in exit ways, stairways, and fire escapes.
3. Exit signs and emergency egress illumination that does not function with loss of power.
4. Fire doors that fail to close and latch, whether by wedging open doors or removing self-closing devices.
5. Misusing extension cords and power strips as a substitute for permanent outlets, “daisy chaining” these devices, or providing power to appliances.
6. Having open electrical junction boxes or missing outlet covers.
7. Failing to maintain a working clearance in front of and around all electrical panels.
8. Failing to provide annual servicing of portable fire extinguishers.
9. Failing to provide annual inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection systems, including sprinklers, fire alarm, fire pumps, kitchen hood suppression, standpipes, and other special suppression systems.
10. Exit doors and passageways that are blocked, obstructed, or locked.

