

# Are You Ready For Your Fire Inspection?



## Top Ten Fire Code Violations

- Street address** must be clearly marked and visible (in contrasting color) from the street fronting the property.
- Fire hydrants** located on your property must be visible and accessible at all times, with three feet of clearance on all sides and no parking within 15 feet unless regulatory signs allow closer.
- Exit doors** must open easily from the inside. Locking mechanisms on doors shall not require special knowledge or keys. The only exception is a main storefront door with a sign above that reads, "This door to remain unlocked when building is occupied."
- Aisles, walkways, stairways, and paths** leading to exits must be clear of storage and obstructions.
- Emergency lights and exit signs** (that are lighted from within) must work properly and function in both normal and emergency power modes. Lighted exit signs must be lit at all times.
- Electrical outlets, junction boxes, and circuit breaker panels** must be covered, and outlets and junction boxes must have the appropriate cover plate.
- Electrical extension cords** cannot be used as a substitute for permanent wiring. Extension cords are only approved for "temporary use" (operating a vacuum cleaner, powering a tool while making a repair, etc.). Multi-outlet power strips, with built-in circuit breakers may be used to protect computers and related equipment.
- Fire extinguishers** must be visible, readily accessible, and serviced every 12 months. For information on servicing, visit our website at [www.vanfire.org](http://www.vanfire.org).
- Fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems** must be serviced and tested every 12 months by an endorsed fire protection contractor.
- Fire suppression systems for commercial cooking operations** (hood systems) must be serviced and tested every 6 months by a licensed fire protection contractor.

The Vancouver Fire Department, Fire Marshal's Office is tasked with inspecting new and existing buildings within the city limits of Vancouver. The main focus when performing fire inspections is life safety and subsequently building/property safety. The main goals of the inspections are to identify and correct fire code violations and educate owners and operators about fire and life safety.

This flyer identifies the top 10 deficiencies found during fire inspections.

Please review the attached detailed checklist and correct any potential deficiencies prior to your inspection; this will help you pass your inspection and make your building safer year-round.

Vancouver Fire Department

PO BOX 1995  
Vancouver, WA 98668

[vanfmo@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:vanfmo@cityofvancouver.us)

