



**Midway Fire Rescue
Division of Fire and Life Safety
Fire and Life Safety Inspection Program
Commercial Occupancies
Program Overview**



The Goal of the Midway Fire Rescue Commercial Fire Inspection Program is to eliminate hazards which lead to accidental fires across our community. Working together to form a partnership with our business owners is the “Key to Accomplishing our Goal”

Commercial Fire Inspection Program Overview

Our goal is to perform a fire inspection in each commercial occupancy across our community on a yearly basis. A commercial occupancy is a structure which is open to the public, and/or occupied by owners or employees. A simple description is we perform fire inspections anywhere you can go as a citizen or employee, with the exception of your home.

- Examples of Commercial Occupancies include assembly buildings, office and government buildings, Houses of Worship, day-care centers, educational facilities, bars, restaurants, manufacturing facilities, healthcare and medical facilities, repair shops, factories, warehouses, auto showrooms, gas stations, and convenience stores
- All Life Safety violations identified during the inspection must be corrected immediately
- After the inspection, we will review the completed Fire Inspection Report and leave a copy with the owner/manager. All violations not corrected during the inspection must be corrected within a 30-day period
- A Fire Inspector will perform an additional inspection after the 30-day time span to ensure the noted violations were corrected. If the violations still exist, the Fire Inspector will work with the owner to take immediate action to make corrections
- In extreme cases, legal actions can be taken by the Fire Marshal’s Office to ensure the hazard is eliminated

Prevent Harm ~ Survive ~ Be Nice

Midway Fire Rescue ~ Division of Fire and Life Safety
Fire and Life Safety Inspection Program Overview ~ Commercial Occupancies

The Unfortunate Results of a Fire Incident at a Commercial Business

- In the majority of cases, the fire cause in a commercial structure is accidental in nature
- Malicious fires do occur (arson), with the majority of the cases solved. These result in criminal arrests, legal actions, and jail time
- Where a fire may be small in magnitude, the resulting smoke and water damage to your property, contents, and saleable goods can be catastrophic
- If a fire occurs in a business which sells or serves food, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control makes the determination on all edible products. In most instances, everything edible in the business has to be destroyed
- A business can easily be closed for weeks, and potentially months, determined by damage
- Closures cause a loss of business revenue. This loss could result in a lack of wages, and a loss of health care insurance. The loss of business revenue could potentially impact owners, employees, and their families
- If a fire were to occur at the start of the summer shopping season, the impact could last the entire season, catastrophic for the community, business, owner, and employees

The following are examples of the common Fire and Life Safety Violations located during a Fire Inspection. There are other violations found which are not listed with these examples

- **LOCKED and BLOCKED EXITS**
All doors marked with an EXIT sign shall be unlocked and unblocked. The EXIT CORRIDOR, both inside and outside, shall be free of clutter and any obstructions
- **EXIT LIGHTS and EMERGENCY LIGHTS shall be properly operating**
All EXIT LIGHTS shall be illuminated, and all EMERGENCY LIGHTS shall operate properly
- **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS shall be mounted with top no more than five feet from floor. Inspection dates by dealer shall be current**
Yearly, Six-Year, and 12-Year Inspections
- **All FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS shall be properly inspected as required by code, as noted:**
Kitchen Hood System (Every Six Months), Fire Alarm System (Yearly), Sprinkler System (Yearly), Standpipe System (Yearly). All inspection reports must be available on site
- **EXTENSION CORDS shall not be plugged into any appliance - Refrigerator, Coolers, A/C**
PERMANENT WIRING is required to power all types of appliances within a business

We urge you to utilize the companion document “Commercial Fire and Life Safety Self-Inspection Checklist” to assist you and your staff in completing a monthly self-inspection. Make immediate corrections to any deficiencies identified. For questions or concerns, please contact us:

843-545-3610 contactmidwayfire@gtcounty.org

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