



FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINE

Title: Business Inspection Requirements		
Number: FPG-17	Effective Date: 01/01/2023	Revised Date: 03/01/2023
Code References: California Fire Code (CFC), California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, Merced Municipal Code (MMC), California Health & Safety Code		
Note: <i>This guideline is a summary of Fire Department clarifications and interpretations of City and State Codes and nationally recognized standards in accordance with the currently adopted edition of the Fire Code. Information contained herein applies to typical circumstances and may not address all situations.</i>		

Scope

This Guideline has been developed to assist business owners and managers with state and local requirements for business uses. This list is general in nature and requirements will vary, depending on the type or business, building size and arrangement.

Codes and Guidelines

This guideline shall apply to business occupancies in accordance with the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title19 and the Merced Municipal Code.

Specific Requirements

1. Fire Extinguishers

- a. A minimum of one 2-A:10-B:C rated fire extinguisher is required on each floor level.
- b. Buildings in excess of 3,000 square feet or with other protection requirements may require additional units.
- c. All extinguishers must have a current State Fire Marshal service tag attached and be serviced annually or after each use, whichever occurs first.
- d. Extinguishers must be properly mounted in visible and accessible locations on each floor level.
- e. Extinguishers located in closets or behind doors must be identified by placing a sign on the door stating, "Fire Extinguisher Inside".

2. Electrical

- a. All exposed electrical wiring must be in continuous metallic raceways (conduit).
- b. All exposed electrical wiring that has been abandoned must be removed.



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- c. A working space of not less than 30 inches in width, 36 inches in depth and 78 inches in height shall be provided in front of all electrical panels and equipment.
- d. Empty circuit breaker spaces must be filled in, no tape is allowed over the circuit breakers, no damaged circuit breakers are permitted, and all circuits must be labeled.
- e. All junction boxes, electrical receptacles and outlets must be in good condition with covers secured in place.
- f. The use of multi-adapters and multi-plug extension cords is prohibited for most applications.
- g. Ensure all power taps or multi-adapters for use with computers, typewriters or similar desktop equipment are approved UL Listed devices and that the appliances do not exceed the rating of the adapter.
- h. Multi-adapters are not permitted to be used in series.
- i. Extension cords are allowed only for temporary use of portable equipment.

3. Exits

- a. Exiting requirements vary greatly, depending on the use of the building and its size. The Fire Department will be checking to see that you have the proper number of exits, the proper door hardware, the proper type of exit signs, and that exits and exit corridors are not obstructed.
- b. Where installed, illuminated exit signs and emergency lighting must be maintained in an operable condition.
- c. Sliding bolts, thumb latches, bars on doors, hasps and similar hardware are prohibited on exit doors, including after hours.

4. Heat Producing Appliances

- a. Remove combustibles and storage from heater areas.
- b. Provide adequate clearance between heat-producing appliances and combustibles.
- c. Gas appliances must have a separate shut-off and be vented to the outside of the building.
- d. Water heaters must have an approved pressure relief device.

5. General



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- a. Every business must have the street address, including suite numbers, posted so that it is visible from the street fronting the property.
- b. Combustible rubbish must be removed or placed in a proper trash receptacle, and flammable decorations are not permitted unless they are properly flame proofed.
- c. All compressed gas cylinders must be properly secured.

6. Fire Sprinkler Systems

- a. An 18-inch clearance must be maintained below all sprinkler heads (except for storage area along walls).
- b. Extra sprinkler heads and sprinkler wrench must be kept on the premises.
- c. Quarterly sprinkler system inspection to be performed by qualified persons. (Records to be maintained on site for review during inspection)
- d. Annual sprinkler system maintenance to be performed by a State Fire Marshal licensed company or person or a fire protection contractor (C-16). (Records to be maintained on site for review during inspection)
- e. Five-Year sprinkler system test to be performed by a State Fire Marshal licensed company or person or a fire protection contractor (C-16). (When required - Provide copy to City of Merced Fire Department once completed)
- f. Five-Year certification tag must be attached to the sprinkler riser or fire department connection.

7. Kitchens

- a. Commercial kitchen hoods must be free of grease, including all filters and ducts.
- b. Approved automatic extinguishing systems are required in commercial-type cooking equipment from which grease-laden vapors emanate in normal cooking application.
- c. Extinguishing systems must be serviced at least every six months or after activation, by a fire protection contractor (C-16) or a State Fire Marshal licensed company or person.
- d. A current certification tag must be attached to the extinguishing system.
- e. In addition, a "K" class fire extinguisher must be located within 30 feet of the cooking equipment.



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8. Flammable Liquids

- a. The storage and use of flammable and combustible liquids may require special permits and have special storage and handling restrictions because of their hazardous nature.

9. Private Fire Hydrants

- a. All private fire hydrants must be tested annually, including an inspection and flow test every 5 years. Contact Fire Prevention Bureau for further details.

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- b. Copies of test results shall be maintained on site and submitted to Compliance Engine.