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FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTION PROGRAM

What Is The NC State Fire Prevention Code?

The Fire Prevention Code is a set of minimum mandatory fire safety standards published and regulated by the North Carolina Office of the State Fire Marshal that apply to all occupancies in North Carolina, except one and two family dwellings. The Fire Prevention Code is uniformly enforced in all areas of the State. The fire code primarily regulates:

- 1) General Precautions against Fire
- 2) Emergency Preparedness
- 3) Fire Protection Requirements
- 4) Electrical Safety
- 5) Exits and Egress Requirements
- 6) Flammable/Combustible Liquid Safety
- 7) Hazardous Materials Operations and Storage
- 8) Other Specialized Operations and Storage

- The North Carolina Fire Prevention Code may be viewed online at <http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/> .

How Often Will The Town Provide Fire Inspections?

The Atlantic Beach Fire Department will immediately respond to any complaint or request for assistance in Fire Code Safety. The Fire Department will make every effort to inspect all occupancies within the Town of Atlantic Beach annually. At minimum, inspections of all occupancies will be conducted as outlined below in the State mandated minimum inspection schedule:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| <u>Once every year</u> - | Hazardous, Institutional, High-Rise, Assembly except those noted below, and Residential except one and two family dwellings and only interior common areas of dwelling units of multifamily occupancies. |
| <u>Once every two years</u> - | Industrial and Educational (Except public schools). |
| <u>Once every three years</u> - | Assembly occupancies with an occupant load less than 100, Business, Mercantile, Storage, Churches, Synagogues, and miscellaneous Group U occupancies. |

Who Will Perform The Fire Inspections?

All personnel who enforce the State Fire Prevention Code are certified to do so by the North Carolina Code Official's Qualification Board. Each inspector that will work with you has undergone extensive education and training to provide quality service. Not only are the inspectors certified by the state to perform fire code enforcement, each is trained in firefighting procedures. This enables us to bring to you a clear understanding of fire behavior.

How Does The Fire Inspection Program Work?

The Town Fire Marshal or a Fire Inspector will call upon businesses within our jurisdiction. Upon arrival, the Inspector will ask for the owner, manager, safety officer or other responsible party. In some cases an appointment will be scheduled in advance, but most inspections will be by geographic area. A systemic inspection will be conducted of the exterior and interior of each building or business. Any code violations will be listed on an inspection form. All violations will be fully explained to the person in charge. Priority items will be identified.

An initial 30-day re-inspection date will be set for the inspector to return. The owner/operator will sign the form and a copy will be left as a record of the inspection. On or about the date set for the first re-inspection, an Inspector will return checking to see that all necessary corrections have been made.

If corrections have not been properly abated an additional 30-day re-inspection period may be given. On or about the date set for the second re-inspection, an Inspector will return checking to see that all necessary corrections have been made.

If corrections have not been properly abated, an additional 10-day re-inspection period may be given. On or about the date set for the third re-inspection, an Inspector will return checking to see that all necessary corrections have been made.

If corrections have not been properly abated, a Civil Citation will be issued to ensure all items have been properly corrected. If any additional re-inspections are necessary, Civil Penalties and Court Action will be sought to gain Code compliance.

Are There Any Charges For Fire Inspection Services?

There is no fee for the fire inspections themselves (this does not refer to Certificate of Compliance (COC) inspections or other types of mandated inspections).

If Civil Citations are issued, fines will be assessed per outstanding violation.

Fire Inspection Program Time Periods and Fees/Fines

1st Inspection (Initial):	No Fee
2 nd Inspection (After 30 Days):	Potential Fines
3 rd Inspection (After 30 Days):	Potential Fines
4 th Inspection (After 10 Days):	Civil Penalties and Fines Issued
5 th Inspection:	Civil Penalties & Fines, Plus Civil Action (Court), Misdemeanor Charges

Citations For Imminent Danger To Life And Safety Violations Will Be Issued At The Time Of The Inspection.

Locked, Blocked or Impeded Exits are an automatic \$200.00 fine per exit, per day.

Overcrowding conditions in an Occupancy is an automatic \$500.00 fine on the first occurrence. The occupancy shall be placed on a 1-year probationary period. Any future overcrowding violations occurring during the 1-year probationary period will result in further fines and possible court action being taken against the occupancy.

Specific Fire Code and Life Safety Violations

Unauthorized Burning:	\$100.00
Spraying/Dipping Operations Not Complying With Code:	\$100.00
Fire Detection/Suppression Systems Not Compliant:	\$100.00
Unauthorized Storage of Flammables & Combustibles:	\$100.00
General Fire Code Violations:	\$50.00
Matters Not Otherwise Provided For:	\$50.00

Operational Permits

An Operational Permit will be issued to businesses that meet the technical code standards for which specific Operational Permits are required. Permits will be valid until revoked or Occupancy/Classification changes. If the permit is a special use permit, a time period will be specified. There are provisions under which a permit may be revoked for non-compliance of the Fire Code. It is possible for a business to require more than one Operational Permit. In that case, multiple permits will be issued with each permit dealing with a specific operation or process. Each permit will be posted in the area dealing with the specifics on the permit.

Thank you for taking time to learn more about the NC Fire Prevention Code and the Town of Atlantic Beach Fire Prevention Inspection program. This document is designed to provide local businesses and the public some basic information about the Fire Inspection program. We hope this will help provide a better understanding of the Fire Inspection process.

For Questions or to Schedule a Fire Inspection
Please Call: 252-726-7361
Mon. – Fri., 8am – 4:30pm
Fax: 252-726-1804