

NEW HOPE BOROUGH
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NEW HOPE BOROUGH ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION PROGRAM

Annual Fire Inspections. The Borough of New Hope conducts annual fire and life safety inspections of occupancies, which include apartment buildings, businesses and public buildings, as part of its overall fire prevention program. Our goal is to inspect all occupancies on an annual basis, with an emphasis on high-hazard occupancies, to promote safe practices by causing an awareness of fire and its potential for occurrence. Specific objectives include:

Promote the health, safety, and welfare of the community;

Provide a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in existing buildings and structures;

Ensure a safe atmosphere for employees, patrons and visitors in New Hope;

Save lives and reduce risk and economic loss;

Enhance the safety of volunteer firefighters and other emergency responders during emergency operations by pre-fire planning.



New Hope Borough Office of the Fire Marshal

123 New Street, New Hope, PA 18938

Telephone: 215.862.3347 FAX: 215.862.8022

email: info@newhopeborough.org

About Your Annual Safety Inspection

Annual Fire Safety Inspections have been an ongoing program for the New Hope Borough since 2004. Recently, we have engaged the New Hope Eagle Fire Company to conduct these inspections. .

What are we inspecting?

All business occupancies, and the common areas and mechanical rooms of multi-family buildings.

What are we looking for?

Our initial goal is to ensure all businesses achieve a minimum level of compliance with both new and existing codes. This minimum level of compliance includes having properly functioning exit signs and emergency lighting, working smoke alarms, properly located and maintained fire extinguishers and visible street numbers.

Is the fee on the report a fine?

Absolutely not. The fee listed on your inspection report is the annual inspection fee. It is based on the type of occupancy. If a re-inspection is required, there may be additional fees, and you will be notified of the additional fees.

I have violations listed. What now?

Any listed violations need to be corrected within 30 days, unless otherwise noted. If you cannot correct the violation in that amount of time, or have any questions about what needs to be done to correct it, please call the Fire Inspector at 215-862-2692. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Isn't this the landlord's obligation?

We inspect businesses and multifamily occupancies. The report has been issued to you because it is your business and therefore your responsibility to maintain a suitable and safe business location. The owner of the building as identified by the Board of Assessment will be invoiced for the inspection fee.

We will not negotiate with your landlord over who pays the repairs or fees, as this is largely a contractual matter addressed in your lease, and is completely outside the control of this office.

Most Common Violations

No smoke detectors, broken detectors, dead batteries.

Functioning smoke detectors are required to be installed in all residential occupancies. While some types of buildings require interconnected systems, other buildings can have battery operated smoke detectors. You should have one detector per floor and one detector in each separated area.

For commercial buildings that are required to have a fire alarm system, audible alarms with horn strobes are required

(NFPA 72 & 2009 ICC/Ansi A117.1). The wall mounting of visible signals is required to have the lens of the strobe mounted not less than 80 inches and not greater than 96 inches above the finished floor. Guidance also is given where a ceiling is too low to permit the required installation height at the minimum of 80 inches. In this case, the code dictates that the visible appliance must be mounted within 6 inches of the ceiling, and the room size covered by the strobe must also be reduced by twice the difference between the minimum mounting height of 80 inches and the actual lower installation height.

If your fire alarm system is required to be monitored by a "supervisory station" such as ADT or Holicong Alarm Company, it is mandatory that such systems are properly maintained, fully operational and continuously monitored.

(Please note that if you install a residential 9-volt smoke detector in a commercial building you may be subject to ADA Title III lawsuits for not providing visible warning strobes for the hearing impaired.)

No fire extinguishers, hidden/not properly mounted, not inspected.

Fire extinguishers should be readily accessible and visible to both staff and guests. You are encouraged to mount one near the front door (so no one ever has to run INTO a burning building to get an extinguisher). Depending on what your business does and what you store within the building, you may need additional extinguishers installed and/or special types of extinguishers (example: commercial kitchens need class "k" extinguishers installed).

All extinguishers need to be properly mounted or placed in a specifically designated and approved extinguisher cabinet.

Annually, all extinguishers need to be inspected by a qualified service company. Check yellow pages for local firms under " Fire Protection. "

Broken or missing exit signs, broken or missing emergency lighting.

All exit signs must be continuously illuminated. Most have a set of bulbs for normal operation and a second set for when the sign is on battery power. If your exit sign is the not the type that is lit internally, it must be externally lit at all times.

Emergency lighting must be in place. If the power goes out, the emergency lighting should be sufficient to get your customers and employees out safely. Most buildings need several lights inside, and one or more lights outside the door. The lights should be able to run on battery power for at least 90 minutes.

No street number, difficulty to read address numbers.

If emergency services can't see your address, they might not be able to find your building in case of an emergency. The address numbers must contrast with their background. Address numbers must be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters, a minimum of 4 inches high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inches.

Electrical problems -- improper use of extension cords, use of multi-taps, etc.

Extension cords are not a permanent solution. They are for temporary use only. When used, they must be of proper size and type for the job and never go through a wall or under/over a door or under carpeting.

Multi-plug outlet adapters are never acceptable, but "surge strips" type plug strips (with a fuse or breaker) are a safe substitute.

Fire Safety begins with you!