



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
Department of Safety
Fire Department
Fire Prevention and Investigation Division

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ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: Commercial Property Owners and Managers

FROM: Joseph L. Gonzales, Division Chief
Department of Safety - Fire Prevention and Investigation

SUBJECT: **FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION FEE INCREASE**

The City and County of Denver has approved an increase to the fees charged for your annual Fire Safety Inspection as of January 1, 2009. Your fee is based on your property's square footage, number of floors and type of occupancy.

The new schedule of fees will soon be available online at www.denvergov.org/fire_prevention. Although the new fees represent an increase of 30% over last year's fees, *this is the first fee increase in 7 years* and the low price is still a bargain for the service received.

Your annual Fire Safety Inspection, which is required by law, is also one of the lowest-cost resources available to protect your property and the health and lives of your employees and those who visit your business or occupy your premises. In part thanks to this inspection program, the City of Denver enjoys an extremely low fire loss rating for a city of its size, with the additional benefit of lower overall property insurance rates compared to other cities.

Whether your business is a smaller property, such as a small retail store or low-rise apartment building (inspected by crews from your local fire station) or a high-rise building, institutional campus with highly technical life-safety systems, or hazardous material occupancy (inspected by personnel from the Fire Prevention and Investigation Division), your annual inspection helps you ensure that your property is in compliance with Denver's Fire Code and therefore national safety standards.

Your 2009 Fire Safety Inspection

Based on last year's records for your business, our staff will schedule your 2009 inspection to take place approximately 12 months from your 2008 inspection, or as close to that date as possible given our crews' workloads.

- Prefer to have your inspection at a different time of year? Just call our office at 720-913-3473 and we'll do our best to accommodate your request.
- Change in your business ownership, size of property, etc.? Please call 720-913-3570 and let us know.

In most cases, the personnel who will be doing the inspection will contact you a day or two beforehand to let you know when they will be coming.

Once on site, Fire Department inspectors will check your building's exits, emergency lighting, exit signs, components of fire-resistive separation, access roadways and fire lanes, and testing and maintenance records of fire-safety systems. They will also make sure there is an emergency evacuation plan in place.

If the inspectors find any conditions that violate city ordinance, they will notify you and, if the conditions cannot be corrected on the spot, will issue an order notice requesting that the condition be corrected as soon as possible. If you are unsure how to correct the problem, you are always welcome to call and we will help you determine what action steps to take. A later inspection will be scheduled to confirm that the violation has been corrected. An additional fee is charged for each re-inspection.

After any inspection, you will be invoiced within a week of the inspector finishing the inspection report. Fees are due and payable within 30 days.

Emergency Pre-Plan Inspection

In addition to receiving an annual Fire Safety Inspection, many businesses and commercial occupancies in Denver receive an annual Emergency Pre-Plan Inspection, where crews from the local fire station visit the facility to conduct pre-emergency planning to ensure that their response is as efficient and effective as possible in the event of an emergency. This inspection is handled at a different time than your Fire Safety Inspection and this service is provided at no charge. (Although, if violations are noted during this inspection, your property may be referred for a Fire Safety Inspection, for which there is a fee.)

Questions?

If you have any questions about the Fire Safety Inspection Program, you may want to read one or both of the following documents, available [online](#):

- Inspections Brochure (pdf)
- Inspection FAQs

Or contact us at 720-913-3473 or denverfpb@denvergov.org with any questions. We thank you for your efforts in helping us keep Denver a safe place in which to work, live and visit.