

# Seattle Fire Prevention Division

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## Safety and Fire Code Enforcement for Building Owners

Building owners and tenants have important responsibilities in keeping buildings safe. We have translated our most popular and helpful forms and brochures into [language] for you. We are also including information about the enforcement process and what to do if your building does not pass an inspection. Thank you for partnering with us in fire safety to preserve lives and protect property.

**Recurring building inspections** Seattle Fire Department conducts inspections of buildings in Seattle at no charge to you. Learn about the [most frequent violations and steps you can](#) take to help ensure a successful building inspection.

**Preventable alarms** There is a new citation penalty of \$373+ for preventable alarms also called “false alarms” or “nuisance alarms”. Learn how to [reduce false alarms](#) and avoid the citation.

**Fire alarms, sprinklers, and kitchen hoods** Equipment like fire alarms must be tested and maintained each year. It is a violation not to test and maintain these systems. Learn what is required for [testing and maintenance](#).

## What happens if the inspector finds a problem?

- **Correction Notice / Notice of Violation (NOV):** The building owner/responsible party is given a Correction Notice / NOV that identifies the problems or “violations” and provides a date by which the problems must be fixed. No fee or charge.
- **Re-inspections and Compliance Fees:** The SFD inspector returns to the property. There is no charge for the first re-inspection. However, if the violation has not been corrected, it will be referred to the Fire Marshal’s Office. Every time the Fire Marshal’s Office must inspect to gain compliance, there is a fee of \$373.
- **Citations:** Starting January 2020, inspectors can also write citations (examples: blocked exits, failure to maintain a fire sprinkler system). The citation penalty is \$373+. Citations can be appealed to the Hearing Examiner.
- **Orders to Comply:** The fire code includes fines of up to \$1,000 per day and prosecution in a court of law.

## Additional Information Available in Multiple Languages

- [Fireworks](#) are generally not allowed in Seattle, except certain fireworks for ceremonial purposes like New Year’s Celebrations are allowed if you receive a [permit from SFD](#).
- [New construction and remodeling](#) can also require SFD inspections.
- [Appeals](#) If you wish to appeal a Fire Department decision or action.

**If you have questions**, please contact us at [SFD\\_FMO\\_SystemsTesting@seattle.gov](mailto:SFD_FMO_SystemsTesting@seattle.gov). Thank you for your partnership with Seattle Fire in helping to preserve lives and protect property for all who live, work and do business in Seattle.