

Chesapeake Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division
Office of the Fire Marshal
304 Albemarle Drive
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Fire and Life Safety Inspections

The Fire Official is authorized to inspect all structures and premises annually for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable to cause fire, contribute to the spread of fire, interfere with firefighting operations, endanger life or property, or to determine any violations of the provisions or intent of The Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC). The SFPC regulates and sets the standard requirements for an inspection in accordance with Section 106 and requires Fire Code Operational permits as approved in accordance with Section 107.

Violations of the SFPC are a Class 1 Misdemeanor. If convicted, Class 1 Misdemeanors are punishable of up to a \$2,500 fine and / or 12 months in jail.

Why Fire and Life Safety Inspections are Conducted

The Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) is based on the *2012 Edition of the International Fire Code* as amended statewide and locally. All Chesapeake Fire Inspectors are sworn public safety officers and are certified by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to conduct life and fire safety inspections in order to ensure compliance with the SFPC and other nationally recognized standards for the use, handling and storage of hazardous materials, fire protection systems and other life or fire safety systems or equipment. Fire and life safety inspections are conducted for several reasons:

- To help business owners, employees, the general public and emergency response personnel maintain a standardized level of life safety.
- To conduct quality life and fire safety inspections to identify and eliminate the hazards known to cause or contribute to unwanted fires or other potentially avoidable incidents.
- To educate businesses, employees and property owners concerning life and fire safety issues.

Inspection and Fire Code Operational Permit Fees

Chapter 34 of the Chesapeake City Code, entitled "Fire Prevention and Protection" as amended and approved by City Council added Section 34-6 (b) which requires a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee for each commercial establishment inspected and an additional Fire Code Operational permit fee as applicable for each permit. All fees shall be paid to the City for each inspection conducted to determine compliance with the SFPC, as amended, and for all permits issued. The \$50.00 inspection fee shall include the initial inspection and up to 2 re-inspections. Any further re-inspections for non-compliance with the SFPC will be subject to an additional \$50 fee per re-inspection. For purposes of this section, "commercial establishment" shall mean an establishment which is not used entirely for residential purposes which includes residential common areas and clubhouses.

Find out more information about our inspection program at www.cityofchesapeake.net/fireinspection. The Chesapeake Fire Department is committed to assisting our business partners in operating safely and successfully.

Division Chief Simone J. Gulisano, Fire Marshal