



FIRE PREVENTION MANUAL

INSPECTIONS

406.001 DISTINCT HAZARDS RE-INSPECTIONS

EFFECTIVE MARCH 2015

SCOPE

Distinct hazards requiring re-inspections by Fresno Fire Department (FFD or Department) members.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the Department's requirements of conditions requiring a re-inspection.

DEFINITION

A "distinct hazard" for the purpose of this policy is defined as:

"Any clear and evident condition that exist (or remains) that is or will become an immediate danger to the safety of the occupants, firefighters, structure, or public right of way."

BACKGROUND

The Department's system of re-inspecting for code-related violations in perpetuity, until compliance, must be altered as circumstances dictate. Ultimately, the Department's goal continues to be complete code-related compliance.

Re-inspections may be completed when, in the opinion of the Fire Chief (or designee), a distinct hazard exists.

REQUIREMENTS

All of the conditions noted during inspections that do not meet the requirements of laws, codes, ordinances and standards do *not*, of themselves, constitute a "distinct hazard" as defined above.

The following list of items is to be used as a guideline for members to consider when identifying and applying the definition of a "distinct hazard":

1. Inoperative Fire Sprinkler Systems

- a. System out of service (i.e. control valve shut or fire pump inoperative).
- b. Change in use of the building that will significantly impair the fire sprinkler system performance (i.e., conversion to high piled storage, change from storing ordinary commodities to plastics or tires, change from office to retail, obstructions to ESFR systems, etc.)
- c. More than 50 percent of sprinklers painted in a space or area.
- d. Building additions or alterations without fire sprinkler protection.
- e. Fire sprinkler components installed or modified without benefit of permit.

2. Inoperative Fire Alarm System

- a. System out of service or fails to sound evacuation alarm when tested.
- b. System in a "trouble" condition.
- c. Missing, damaged, or inoperable initiation or notification equipment.
- d. Fire alarm system or components installed or modified without benefit of permit.

3. Exits Access, Exit Doors and Access to a Public Way

- a. Exit corridors or exit doors blocked by storage (unless removed in your presence).
- b. Illegal locking devices on doors (i.e., dead bolts, flush bolts, security bars, padlocks, etc., unless removed in your presence).
- c. Exit door does not open properly.
- d. Incorrect door hardware in assembly occupancies.
- e. The exit discharge shall provide a direct and unobstructed access to a public way.

4. Exit Signs and Emergency Egress Lighting Components

- a. More than 50 percent of exit signs or emergency egress lighting components are out or fail on test.

5. Other Distinct Hazards

- a. Fire apparatus access roads or gate(s) rendered unusable (i.e., fire lane blocked or impaired to the extent that a single apparatus cannot pass through. Fire access gate replaced with a fence, etc.).
- b. Commodity storage arrangements (interior or exterior) which impair manual firefighting operations (i.e. lack of aisles, unstable piles, etc.).
- c. One or two-hour fire resistance rated stair shaft integrity compromised (i.e., door closures, latching, holes in walls, etc.).
- d. Fire wall (as defined in current edition of the *California Building Code*) integrity compromised, two-hour fire resistance rating or higher.
- e. Electrical violations of such an extent that a City electrical inspector and permits are needed for correction.
- f. Hood and vent extinguishing system inoperative or equipment has been modified resulting in unprotected appliances.
- g. Improper use of flammable, combustible or hazardous materials that create a distinct hazard (i.e., spray finishing outside a booth, use of flammable or combustible materials in an unsafe manner that may reasonably cause a fire, explosion, or exposure, incompatible storage conditions of hazardous materials, compromised containers of hazardous materials, unauthorized disposal of hazardous materials, etc.).
- h. Building conditions subject to the *Fresno Municipal Code Dangerous Building Ordinance* for actual or potential structural failure (placarding).

NOTE: The list above is not intended as an all-inclusive list of re-inspection violations. If a questionable issue arises during an inspection, and it is not included above as one of the categories for re-inspection, members have the discretion to conduct or have conducted a re-inspection as necessary.

REFERENCES

California Building Code
[Fresno Municipal Code](#)