



**Guil-Rand Fire Department**  
**Fire Marshal's Office**  
10506 S. Main St.  
Archdale, NC 27263  
(336)431-2512

## **Commonly Found Fire Code Violations**

### **Fire Extinguisher Issues**

- Fire extinguishers must be serviced/maintained by a licensed technician annually or purchased new annually per NFPA 10. If purchased new, retain the receipt to prove it was purchased within the last calendar year. (taped to the bottom of the extinguisher is the most common)
- Fire extinguishers must be mounted on a wall between 4"-60" or in a marked cabinet, and readily accessible. (not blocked or obscured from view)

### **Blocked Panel Box**

- In the event of a fire involving energized electrical equipment, access to a building's electrical panel is imperative. Therefore, blocking of panel boxes is not allowed.

### **Extension cords and Multi-Plug Adaptors**

- Extension cords (drop cords) cannot be affixed to the building and cannot be used as permanent wiring (ran through ceilings, walls, zip tied to rafters, etc.)
- Multiplug adaptors must comply with NFPA 70. (Must be a surge protector)
- Appliances such as space heaters, microwaves, toaster ovens, window air conditioners, freezers, etc. must be plugged directly into a permanent receptacle.
- Power strips and extension cords must be plugged into a permanent receptacle. They cannot be "daisy-chained" or "piggybacked" together.

### **Space Heaters**

- Portable electric space heaters shall not be operated within 3' of combustible materials.
- Space heaters cannot be plugged into a power strip or extension cord. They must be plugged directly into an approved, permanent receptacle.

### **General Unapproved Conditions**

- Open junction boxes
- Missing covers on panel boxes, receptacles, or switches
- Exposed wiring

### **Exit Signs not present or not illuminating**

- Exit signs are required to illuminate under normal building power and in the event of power failure by battery back-up or emergency generator.
- Broke exit signs, emergency lights, or other fire protection equipment must function properly if it is present.

### **Blocked Exits**

- Exit doors must be kept free from obstruction, inside and outside.
- Exit doors should not require more than 5 pounds of force to open.
- Exit pathways must be kept clear and unobstructed.

### **Aisle Width**

- Business and retail sales (mercantile) occupancies an aisle width of 44" must be maintained.

### **Door Hardware**

- Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted.
- Dead bolt locks must be equipped with a thumb latch on the egress side (inside) and cannot be keyed on both sides.
- Padlocks and hasps are not permitted on exit doors.
- Security grills and drop bars must be removed while the building is occupied.

### **Sprinkler Systems and Required Fire Alarms**

- Both must be inspected annually by a licensed technician, deficiencies must be corrected, and reports must be kept on site. This report must be available to the fire code official upon request.

### **Fire Rated Construction/ Fire Blocking**

- A missing ceiling tile can facilitate fire spread; therefore, broken, or missing ceiling tiles are not permitted per the fire code.
- Fire rated construction must be maintained, and holes in fire walls must be sealed.
- Fire doors cannot be obstructed and must close automatically from any position including fully open or must remain closed.
- Fire doors cannot be removed, "chocked" or "wedged" open. Hold-open devices must be of an approved type designed to allow the door to close when exposed to fire conditions.
- Fire rated doors cannot be sawed or cut. Even painting can void the fire rating.
- Fire doors are required to be tested annually. Records of testing must be maintained.

### **Storage**

- Storage shall be maintained 2 feet (24") below the ceiling in non-sprinklered buildings and 18" in those with sprinklers.
- Storage is not permitted in equipment rooms.
- Storage is not permitted in rated stairways used as a means of egress.

## General House Keeping

- Combustible waste is not permitted to accumulate causing a fire hazard.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Are fire inspections required?

- Yes, fire inspections are required by NC General Statute. However, who conducts or provides the service for fire inspections may change depending on your location in a county or municipality.
- Guil-Rand Fire Department contracts with the cities of Archdale and Trinity to provide fire inspections to their respective districts.
- In addition, Fire Inspectors in Archdale and Trinity conduct plan review on new construction and renovations, conduct community risk reduction and education events, and supplement staffing for fire suppression.

### Will I, or my business get in trouble if I fail a fire inspection?

- Our first approach is always education, failing a fire inspection or getting a correction notice does not typically mean you are in trouble, or your business is going to have to close.
- **The goal of fire inspections is voluntary compliance so that you, your staff, clients, and property are safe from fire and can exit unharmed in the event of a fire.**
- Although voluntary compliance is the goal, significant violations may result in immediate corrective action being needed.
- **Uncorrected violations upon a follow-up visit could be subject to a reinspection fee.** The first follow-up visit, or reinspection, is \$60, second is \$100 and the third reinspection, with no action is \$200. **There is no fee for a follow-up visit if violations have been corrected.**
- If violations go uncorrected, you could find yourself criminally or civilly liable in the event of a fire. In addition, if uncorrected violations are noted and an incident occurs, it may impact your insurance policy.

## Questions?

- If you have any questions in regard to fire and life safety, please contact Guil-Rand Fire Department at (336)431-2512 or [inspections@guil-randfire.com](mailto:inspections@guil-randfire.com)