

Allen County Fire & EMS District

Code Enforcement Division

Fire Inspections

The Allen County Fire & EMS District is committed to providing excellent customer service to our business community. Our goal is a partnership that promotes fire safety for business owners, their employees, and the patrons who visit their establishments. We aim to be fair and reasonable while working toward compliance with the applicable codes and standards — all for the safety of the public and of the firefighters who may one day respond to that building.

Why We Inspect

Fire inspections exist to identify and correct hazards before they cause harm. A well-maintained building with clear exits, working fire protection systems, and safe practices protects everyone: the owner's investment, the employees who work there each day, and the customers who walk through the door. It also protects our firefighters, who depend on code-compliant buildings to operate safely during an emergency. We approach every inspection as a shared effort toward those goals, not as a hunt for violations.

What Guides Our Inspections

Our inspections are guided by the fire and life safety codes and standards adopted for our jurisdiction, including:

- The International Fire Code (IFC), as adopted by the State of Indiana through the Indiana Fire Code (675 IAC 22)
- The International Building Code and related Indiana building codes (675 IAC 13), where applicable to existing conditions
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards referenced by the adopted codes — such as those for fire alarms, sprinkler systems, and kitchen suppression
- Local ordinances adopted within Allen County, including the Allen County Food and Beverage Ordinance and the Allen County open burning provisions

As the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), ACFD interprets and applies these codes to the conditions we find in the field.

What to Expect During an Inspection

The following is a general overview of how an inspection typically proceeds. It is provided for information only and is not a statement of formal policy; specific circumstances may vary.

- **Arrival** — an ACFD inspector may schedule an appointment, or may arrive unannounced during business hours.
- **If violations are found** — you will typically be given a reasonable time frame, usually 30 days, to make repairs or changes, or to have additional inspections completed — such as fire alarm or fire sprinkler testing — if needed.
- **Critical hazards** — some violations, such as a blocked exit, must be corrected immediately for the safety of occupants.
- **Reinspection** — a reinspection date will be provided, and the inspector will return on or around that date, working with your schedule where possible.
- **If items remain unresolved** — additional time may be granted when circumstances were genuinely outside the business's control. If violations were simply overlooked or ignored, the inspector will work with the Indiana State Fire Marshal's office to impose fines.