

# **Fire Inspections**

## **What authority does San Luis Obispo Fire Department have to conduct Fire Inspections?**

San Luis Obispo Fire Department enforces the 2019 California Fire Code. Sections 104.3 and 106.1 of the 2019 California Fire Code have been adopted by the City of SLO. These sections define the Fire Code Official's inspection responsibilities.

## **Why does the San Luis Obispo Fire Department conduct Fire Inspections?**

Fire inspections are conducted to identify and correct any potential fire and life safety violations. In doing so, the Fire Department plays a vital role in educating businesses and residents in proper fire prevention practices.

## **What is a Fire Code?**

The Fire Code is a model code adopted by the state or local jurisdiction and enforced by fire prevention officers within municipal fire departments. It is a set of rules prescribing minimum requirements to prevent fire and explosion hazards arising from storage, handling, or use of dangerous materials, or from other specific hazardous conditions. It complements the building code. The fire code is aimed primarily at preventing fires, ensuring that necessary training and equipment will be on hand, and that the original design basis of the building, including the basic plan set out by the architect, is not compromised. The fire code also addresses inspection and maintenance requirements of various fire protection equipment to maintain optimal active fire protection and passive fire protection measures.

## **What Codes does San Luis Obispo Fire Department enforce?**

The California Fire Code, the California Code of Regulations Title 19, and City of SLO Municipal Code.

## **How often does San Luis Obispo Fire Department conduct a fire/safety inspection?**

All business occupancies, as determined by the Fire Code Official, shall be inspected at least once a year for fire and life safety requirements, based on federal, state, and locally adopted codes and regulations.

## **Fire Inspector found a violation of the Fire Code in my building, what must I do?**

If a violation is found during an inspection, a Fire Inspection Notice will be issued to record the type and location of the violation—if there is not a responsible party on site to receive the notice, it will be mailed to the property contact. Unless the violation poses an immediate fire, life, or safety violation, reasonable time will be granted to make the corrections.

## **The Fire Inspector told me that a re-inspection is necessary, why?**

A re-inspection is necessary to confirm the correction or abatement of any previous fire and/or life safety violations.

## **Why does the City charge for R-1 inspections?**

These facilities require a greater degree of oversight and service, hence the fee for service. The California Health and Safety Code requires the Fire Department to inspect apartments and hotels on an annual basis. This will protect our student population and visitors.

**If I fail to make corrections to a Fire Code violation, what happens?**

If compliance has not been met after the period allotted by the initial issue of the Fire Inspection Notice, a 2nd Fire Inspection Notice will be issued; concurrently a penalty fee may be assessed to you. A subsequent recheck will be made, and if the conditions in violation are still found, a final notice will be issued by way of a Compliance Order. A subsequent recheck will be made, and if unsafe conditions are still found, a penalty fee will be assessed by way of an Administrative Citation. If conditions continue to exist, the matter will be forwarded to the City Attorneys' office, and additional fees will be assessed. Each additional re-inspection for non-compliance will be charged as a penalty fee. If you have been assessed a penalty fee for noncompliance, you will not have your violation notice signed off as corrected until proof of payment is made.

**I believe I saw a Fire Code violation at a business I visited, what can I do about it?**

Please call the Fire Prevention Bureau at +1 (805) 783-7773, to pass the information to us for investigation. This information can be anonymous.

**What do you look for on a fire inspection?**

For life safety on new construction we look to see if what was shown on the plans is what has been installed. On an annual inspection we look for potential safety hazards that can be abated before they become a serious problem. Cooperation is our main objective to get code compliance. SLOFD will identify a problem and try to show that it is in everyone's best interest to make the area as safe as possible.

**How do I schedule a construction inspection?**

Call the Fire Department Inspection line at 805-783-7775.