

# **Fire Prevention**

## **How do I get rid of old fireworks?**

Contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal at +1 (916) 445-8373

## **My fire extinguisher is old, how do I know that it is still operable?**

San Luis Obispo Fire Department does not service or recharge fire extinguishers. Old or obsolete extinguishers may be ineffective on fires and may cause injury. If your fire extinguisher has a gauge, then it can be filled. If there is no gauge, then the fire extinguisher is for one-time use only, and is disposable. To service your fire extinguisher, please refer to the manufacturer's label/sticker/hang tag on the extinguisher or contact a fire extinguisher maintenance company. Replace or service an extinguisher right away if it has been used or if you notice any of the following:

- The date on the label or the attached tag has expired.
- The pressure gauge is not in the green, is indicating the extinguisher is not full or indicates it needs a recharge.
- The hose or nozzle is cracked, ripped, or blocked with debris.
- The locking pin on the handle is missing or unsealed.
- The handle is wobbly or broken.
- The inspection label, sticker or hang tag, with an expiration date, a record of checkups and/or maintenance, is missing.

If replacing your extinguishers: a multi-purpose (ABC) fire extinguisher is best for the home. Look for the rating to be at least 2A10BC on the label. This extinguisher can be used on any type of fire commonly found in the home. We recommend installing an extinguisher in the kitchen and in the garage.

## **How do I get rid of my old fire extinguisher?**

You should "discharge" the extinguisher to release the pressurized gas. This can be a messy process. Take the old extinguisher outside, turn upside-down to release the gas into an outdoor garbage can. Pull the pin at the handle, aim the hose or top of extinguisher into the garbage can (away from you), squeeze the handle and the gas will release. The chemical extinguishing agent will probably come out with the gas. After the gas is released, you can safely discard the extinguisher in the trash or recycle bin.

## **How do I get rid of old fireworks?**

Contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal at +1 (916) 445-8373

## **Do I need a fire extinguisher at my business or multi-family residence?**

Yes. All businesses and multi-family residences within the City of SLO are required to provide fire extinguisher(s). (California Fire Code 906.1)

## **Can I place the fire extinguisher on the floor, under a counter, or in a closet?**

No. Fire extinguishers shall be conspicuously located along normal paths of travel where they will be readily accessible and immediately available in the event of a fire (CCR Title 19).

## **How many fire extinguishers do I need for my business or multi-family residence?**

Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at +1 (805) 781-7773 and ask to speak with a Fire Inspector. This will depend on the type of hazard being protected, the maximum travel distance allowed to each extinguisher, and the square footage of the business or multi-family residence.

**Do I need a special fire extinguisher in my commercial kitchen?**

Yes. Fire extinguishers with a Class K rating shall be provided for hazards where there is a potential for fires involving combustible cooking media (vegetable or animal fats; CCR Title 19).

**Do I need an annual service performed on my fire extinguishers?**

There are no regulations mandating the servicing of fire extinguishers placed in single family residences. In apartments and all commercial buildings, fire extinguishers are required to be serviced once a year. Servicing which includes maintenance, recharging and hydrostatic testing shall be performed by California State Fire Marshal licensed businesses. (CCR Title 19)

**Does the Fire department offer fire extinguisher service?**

No. Fire extinguisher service shall only be performed by contractors licensed by the California State Fire Marshal. There are many local companies if you search online for “fire extinguisher servicing.” We do not endorse or recommend fire extinguisher servicing companies.

**What rating fire extinguisher is needed in a business?**

Extinguishers are required based on the type of hazard at your business. The minimum rating for an office with normal combustibles is: 2A10BC.

**What kind and where should fire extinguishers be placed in my home?**

Having a fire extinguisher in the home is a good idea, but not required by law. If you have an extinguisher, it should be placed where it is easily accessible. The kitchen and garage are good sites for an extinguisher. However, do not place an extinguisher over the stove or buried in storage in the garage, but rather hang it on the wall between three and five feet from the ground. A multi-purpose fire extinguisher is best for the home. Look for the rating to be at least 2A10BC on the label. This extinguisher can be used on any type of fire commonly found in the home. (It will often be labeled A-B-C.) It is recommended that an extinguisher be installed in the kitchen and in the garage. View our fire extinguisher video [here](#) and informational handout [here](#).

**When are fire extinguishers placed in a commercial building?**

The California Fire Code, regulating fire extinguisher requirements varies with the different type of hazard classification of the building. A general rule for a commercial building, with no special hazard classification, is an extinguisher with a 2A10BC rating placed within 75 feet travel distance to all areas.

**What can you do about weeds?**

Properties that have tall green grass in the winter but dry out and present a hazard during the summer should be abated prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> each year. SLOFD enforces weed abatement throughout the year if they pose a fire threat. Please comply with the following guidelines:

- Mow overgrown lawns <4”
- Clear and remove empty lots of weeds/brush to <4” high (mow, disc, scrape or rototill).
- This includes any vegetation that may be green now but dries later.
- Clear dead leaves, weeds, and brush from your property.
- Remove dead bushes and dead trees or tree limbs.
- Remove excess trash, wood, mattresses, and other combustibles from the property.
- Keep stacked lumber/wood or any combustibles away from structures and

minimum 3 ft. from fences; and no higher than 3 ft.

- Additional regulations may apply to properties located in hazardous fire areas.

For more information on wildfire preparedness including a Ready-Set-Go wildfire action plan, visit [www.slocity.org/wildfire](http://www.slocity.org/wildfire). View our weed abatement video [here](#).

### **How many smoke detectors do I need in my home to provide adequate protection for my family and where do I install them?**

You should have at least one smoke detector in each bedroom, the hallway, in the sleeping areas, and at the top of all stairways. Smoke rises, so the best place to install a detector is on the ceiling or high on an inside wall approximately 6-8 inches below the ceiling. However, do not install a smoke detector within three feet of any device that might blow the smoke away. Call the fire department at +1 (805) 783-7773 for specific information on requirements for smoke detector placement.

### **How do I know if my smoke detector is working properly? How long do batteries last in a smoke detector?**

SLOFD recommends you test your smoke detector monthly. This is done in two ways: 1) push the test button or, 2) blow out a candle and hold the smoke up to the detector. Either method should work. Batteries normally last up to one year, and usually the smoke detector provides an audible indication (a chirp) when the batteries become weak. As a reminder, the fire department suggests you “Change your clock, Change your Battery” each fall of the year. View our smoke detector video [here](#) and informational handout [here](#)

### **Are some types of landscaping more dangerous than others?**

Yes. One type that firefighters particularly dislike is junipers. Often planted next to houses, the plant does not drop its dead growth to the ground, and it has many of the same volatile oils found in pine trees. They ignite as easily as dead weeds and burn hot, like pine trees. They are one of the most hazardous plants you could put around your home. View our wildfire preparedness flyer with desirable plants [here](#).

### **Are fireworks legal to use in the City?**

No, the use of any fireworks within the City of San Luis Obispo is prohibited and use will result in citation.

### **I have a question about grills or fire-pits.**

View our fire pit video [here](#) and informational handout [here](#).

### **How can I obtain a tent permit?**

Complete the [Tent Permit Form](#) bring it into Fire Station 1 at 2160 Santa Barbara Ave. The application will be reviewed for approval.

### **How can I obtain a Special Events permit?**

Complete the [Special Events Application](#) bring it into Fire Station 1 located at 2160 Santa Barbara Ave. The application will be reviewed for approval.

### **How do I find out if I need a Fire Permit to operate my business?**

Please contact Rodger Maggio, Fire Marshal at 805-781-7386 or [rmaggio@slocity.org](mailto:rmaggio@slocity.org).

### **How do I order a Knox Box for Commercial or Residential use?**

Apply online at [www.knoxbox.com](http://www.knoxbox.com). If you have questions regarding a Knox Box please contact Molly Brown at 805-781-7560 or [mbrown@slocity.org](mailto:mbrown@slocity.org).

The standard Knox Box to order for properties within the City of San Luis Obispo is a black 3200 series Knox Box, either flush mount or surface mount, to be mounted in a

location approved by the Fire Department, at a height of 6 feet above grade. A tamper switch is not required.

**My carbon monoxide detector went off. Should I do anything?**

Exit the house. Call the non-emergency dispatch number 805-781-7317.

**How do I report a weed or dead pine tree problem within the City of SLO.**

Please read the [Weed Notice](#). For weeds in the County, call Cal Fire at 805-543-4244.

**How do I report an abandoned piece of furniture or piles of combustibles?**

If the discards are on private property (in a yard) contact Neighborhood Services Division at 805-781-7180. If the discards are on a public sidewalk call the Utilities Department at 805-781-7215. If the discards are in the street, contact the Streets Department at 805-781-7220.

**How do I find out if I can cook with an open flame at Farmer's Market?**

Call the Fire Marshal at 805-781-7386 or [rmaggio@slocity.org](mailto:rmaggio@slocity.org).

**How do I request a Fire Department Tour or Public Education Program?**

Please fill out this [Form](#)

**How do I know if my fire extinguisher is operable?**

Check the gauge to make sure the arrow is in the green area. All commercial business properties are required to have their fire extinguishers serviced annually by a State licensed fire extinguisher contractor.

**What can I do if my landlord does not take care of a Fire Safety Issue?**

Call the Fire Department Inspector at 805-781-7560.

**How can I get a copy of the Fire Department Inspection Report for my business or apartment building?**

Call the Fire Department at 805-783-7773.