

Standard Operating Guidelines Fire Safety Inspections

PURPOSE

To provide consistent and knowledgeable guidance to all citizens and business working closely with the Franklin County Building Official to assure compliance with all Virginia Statewide Building and Fire Codes as well as all Franklin County Ordinances with reference to Fire Safety as well as other Safety Issues.

GUIDELINE

The Franklin County Fire Marshal's Office provides a number of inspection services to Franklin County business and industry. Stipulated by State and County Code, inspections are conducted in all existing Public Schools, County owned/occupied structures, commercial occupancies, including residential greater than duplex, on a six month, one year, two year or three year rotation, depending on the state requirements.

The Virginia Statewide Building and Fire Codes are periodically updated and adopted by local ordinance and are enforceable by State and County Code. The provisions of the code shall apply to the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal and demolition of every building or structure or any appurtenances connected or attached to such buildings or structures.

The purpose of the fire code in Virginia is to establish minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practices for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion, or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures, and premises.

The Franklin County Department of Public Safety Fire Marshal's Office also serves to educate the citizens in all aspects of fire and life safety. Along with educational objectives, fire inspectors provide a number of other inspection services including tent, blasting, daycare, foster care, fireworks usage, hazardous materials inventory, aboveground storage tank installation, and other types of courtesy inspections.

Inspectors are involved with every aspect of construction, from blueprint plan review to final acceptance testing of all fire protection equipment. Citizens must contact the Franklin County Department of Public Safety Fire Marshal's Office to inquire about burning notification/permits and The Franklin County Communication Center to report any and all controlled burns prior to burning. This process is considered a Control Burn Notification. Blasting Permits, Explosive Storage Permits, and Aboveground Storage Tank Permits must be filed with the Franklin County Building Official and approved by the Franklin County Fire Marshal's Office. Inspectors receive specific training certifications to provide consistent and knowledgeable guidance to all citizens and business owners.