



Top 10 Most Common Fire Code Deficiencies

The list below gives you an idea of the most common fire code deficiencies found during a routine fire inspection conducted by the Fergus Falls Fire Department.

1. **EXIT sign's/emergency lights not working properly.** If your building requires these devices, EXIT signs are to be illuminated anytime anyone is in the building, and emergency lights need to be in proper working order at all times.



2. **Electrical abatement. (Outlet Covers).** Light switches, receptacle covers, junction boxes, etc., all need to have protective covers on them at all times.
3. **Fire extinguishers past due for their annual maintenance.** Fire extinguishers are required to be inspected on an annual basis by a qualified technician per the Minnesota State Fire Code.



4. **Use of extension cords.** Extension cords are allowed to be used as temporary wiring only (Up to 90 days). The cord needs to be rated for the intended job, and it cannot extend through ceilings, walls, doorways, floors, or windows.
5. **Daisy chained six-strip devices.** Six-strip devices are often used with computer equipment. One six-strip device cannot be plugged into another; they must be plugged directly into a permanent wall receptacle.



6. Multi-plug or cube adapters. Multi-plug or cube adapters are not allowed by the Minnesota State Fire Code. Discontinue the use of these devices not only in your business, but also in your home. If needed, use six-strip devices in their place.
7. Fire doors not closing properly. Fire doors are intended to stop the spread of smoke and flame. They need to close and latch properly every time. Each spring and fall fire doors need to be checked to make sure they are working properly.
8. General housekeeping (Storage, Use and Handling of Miscellaneous Combustible Materials) Storage of combustible materials in buildings shall be orderly. Storage shall be separated from heaters or heating devices by distance or shielding so that ignition cannot occur. Storage of combustible materials in EXITS or EXIT enclosures is strictly prohibited.
9. EXIT doors obstructed/unusable. Keep EXITS unobstructed at all times from the inside of the building, and the outside of the building. Keep snow and ice cleared properly in the winter months on the outside of the building, and make sure the EXIT width is unobstructed by merchandise or storage from the inside of the building.
10. Fire alarm systems/Sprinkler systems need annual inspections. Fire alarm systems and sprinkler systems are required to be inspected by a qualified technician on an annual basis per the Minnesota State Fire Code. **Every** building in the state of Minnesota with a sprinkler system is required to have the sprinkler system inspected annually.



By walking through your facility and looking for the 10 Most Common Fire Code Deficiencies on a routine basis, you can keep your facility safer from fire, and help reduce the numbers of fires and injuries due to fire. If you would like a fire inspection of your facility, please call the Fergus Falls Fire Department at 218-736-6983, and schedule one today.