Cornell University
Environmental Health and Safety

University Fire Marshals Office
2016 Annual Fire Inspection Training

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History

Annual Fire Inspections –
- Conducted since 1969 as a result of a multi-fatal dorm fire at Cornell University
- Seton Hall multi-fatal dorm fire of 2000 led to NYS Governor’s Task Force on Campus Fire Safety
Results of the Governors Task Force

- Campus fire safety advisory board
- Implement an enhanced fire safety training curriculum
- Annual inspection of all educational buildings in New York State
- Enhanced detection/alarms in dorms
- Install sprinklers in dorms during rehab
New York State Codes (2010)

- Fire Code
- Property Maintenance Code
- Residential Code
- Building Code
Impacts to Cornell

- Annual Inspections of all Cornell buildings that support the operations of the University. Classrooms, Research Areas (Labs), Physical Education and Dining Facilities
- All Dorm Rooms, Living Units and Greek Housing
- Endowed and Contract College Facilities
Inspection Process

- The University Fire Marshal’s Office (UFM) provides stewardship of all Annual Fire Inspections with New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (NYSOFPC), Ithaca Fire Department (IFD), Town of Ithaca (TOI), Village of Cayuga Heights (VCH)
- The UFM coordinates all inspections with all Campus Stakeholders
- Must be conducted while the University is in session
Inspection Process Cont’d

• Per New York State Law Hard Copies must be sent to The University’s Presidents Office

• UFM Office receives PDF copies of Inspection Reports and distributes them electronically to the Respective Stakeholders to speed up the violation abatement process

• Abatement Extensions are reviewed by the UFM Office and if valid negotiate with the appropriate Inspection Agencies
Inspection Metrics 2015

Totals for both OFPC & IFD

- 18.75 million square feet
- 629 inspections with 1,636 violations
  - OPFC 566 inspections totaled 1,314 violations
  - IFD 63 inspections with 290 violations
  
  Violations increased a total of 820 from 2014 to 2015

- No Fines Assessed
Top 10 Frequently Cited Violations

2015 Total Violations = 1,636
(2014 violations totaled only 811)

1. Unapproved conditions open J-Boxes & Elec. Panels (152)
2. Improper use of Extension Cords (138)
3. Obstructed means of Egress including Snow & Ice (114)
4. Fire Resistance Rating not maintained (83)
5. Propped open fire doors (73)
Top 10 Frequent Violations (cont’d)

6. General Electrical Hazards Frayed Cords, Broken Outlets (66)
7. Swinging Fire Doors do not close & latch (63)
8. Illegal Power Taps to Outlets, Electrical (60)
9. Use of Open Flames (Candles/Incense) in Residential (51)
10. Excess Combustible Storage in Mechanical Rooms (46)
Examples of Violations
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Compliance Plan Status

No active compliance plans

- Fire Safety and Evacuation Plans
- Standpipe Flow Testing and Inspections
Changes in 2016

● (2) New Inspectors from OFPC
Lonny Drake, Robert O’Neal, Chad Peters, John McCartney, Kayley Morgan & Jeffrey Schoeberl

● IFD will have (3) New Inspectors
Gill Hianes-Sharp, Jason Lawrence, Rob Shepherd & Dylan Watros
Reminders

- Take notes while escorting the Inspectors
- Do not engage in verbal disputes with Inspectors, if a situation arises contact me as soon as possible
- Abate any violations on the spot
- Violations that cannot be abated within 30-days, contact me as soon as possible to discuss plan
- Schedule flexibility, 15-20 minutes prior and after
Reminders cont’d

- When filling out service requests to abate violations,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Code</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Service Definition / Examples</th>
<th>Suggested Crew(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REGCOMP</td>
<td>Regulatory Compliance</td>
<td>Time-sensitive work related to an authority having jurisdiction (OFPC)</td>
<td>Any</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Law for Orders to Remedy, $1,000.00 per day

- The University Fire Marshal’s Office is your advocate to challenge violations and will engage the respective Inspection Agency

- The University Fire Marshal approves all Abatement Extension Requests and negotiates all extension requests
Pre-Inspection Tips and Check List

- Remove all Extension Cords and replace them with Power Strips.
- Extension Cords not being used shall be disconnected from the outlet and properly coiled up
- No Power Strips can be plugged into another Power Strip or Extension Cord. Device used must be plugged directly into an outlet
- Repair/Replace Frayed Electric Cords
- Have any Junction Boxes or Electrical Covers replaced so that connections and wires are not exposed
- Labeled Fire Doors cannot be propped open. Remove any prop open devices
Pre-Inspection Tips and Check List Cont’d

- Properly secure any Gas Cylinders to prevent them from falling over by using Chain and or Straps to a fixed point
- Mechanical Rooms are clear of excessive Combustible Materials and they are neat and orderly
- Check Flame Retardant requirements for Curtains/Drapes in Assembly Spaces of 50 or more people and Lab Spaces
- Ensure that all Hallways and Stairwells are free of obstructions especially Combustible Material Storage
- Ensure that all Exit Signs are Illuminated and in Good Condition
Pre-Inspection Tips and Check List
Cont’d

• All Ceiling Tiles are in place and not broken
• Ensure that all Fire and Life Safety equipment is accessible and not obstructed
• Maintain Unobstructed Exits and Egress
EH&S provides assistance for Fire Code Compliance

- Staffing for Major Events
- Fire Safety and Education Training
- Testing and Inspecting of all Fire Alarm and Sprinkler Systems
- Evacuation Drills
- Kitchen Hood Semi-Annual Inspection & Testing Coordination
Summary

- Fire Safety and Fire Code Compliance is a year round process and not just once a year

- Keep working with Building Occupants to reduce violations such as:
  - Improper Use of Extension Cords
  - Multi-Plug Adapters
  - Frayed Power Cords
  - Propped Fire Doors

  By doing so our Campus Violations could be reduced by almost 50%

- Keep up the great work that you are doing, together we can make a difference!
Closing

Thank you for your continued collaboration and support. Our joint effort is continually making our buildings safer!

Questions?