University Fire Marshal’s
2014 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 2013

Totals for both OFPC & IFD

- 18.75 million square feet
- inspections with 730 violations
  - 633 OPFC inspections with 470 violations
  - 97 IFD inspections with 301 violations
    (Town of Ithaca Inspections)
- No Fines Assessed
Top 10 Frequently Cited Violations

1. Improper use of Extension Cords (117)
2. Swinging Fire Doors do not close & latch (78)
3. Exposed Wiring Open J-Boxes (56)
4. Illegal Power Taps to Outlets (49)
5. Open Flame, Candles Incense (29)
Top 10 Frequently Cited Violations (cont’d)

6. Improper Use of Multi-Plug Adapters (29)
7. Fire Resistance Rating no maintained (28)
8. Frayed Cords, Broken Outlets & etc. (22)
9. Power Strips w/out overcurrent protection (19)
10. Improper Combustible Storage to ceiling (17)
Violation Percentage Breakdown

Top Ten Cited Violations

771 Total Violations

- Extension Cords: 26%
- Fire Doors: 18%
- Exposed Wiring: 13%
- Illegal Power Taps: 11%
- Open Flame: 6%
- Multi-Plug Adapters: 7%
- Fire Rating: 6%
- Electrical Hazards: 5%
- Power Strips: 4%
- Combustible Storage: 4%
Compliance Plan Status

● Amanda’s Law “Carbon Monoxide Detection”: 3-Year commitment for compliance has been completed

● Monthly Fire Extinguisher Inspections

● Fire Escapes
Changes in 2014

• (2) New Inspectors from OFPC (Adam D’Amigo & Bob Furman)
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 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

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

● Keep up the great work that you are doing!
Closing

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

Questions?