



Chattanooga Fire Department

Fire Code Requirements for High Rise Occupancies

This checklist provides some of the basic regulations governing the operation of **High Rise Occupancies**. It is not possible to cover all regulations. If you have a particular question of concern, please telephone or FAX the Chattanooga Fire Department. The initial inspection is conducted at no charge. There is no charge for one re-inspection.

1. Permits

A. A valid certificate of occupancy from Building Inspection is required. Each tenant must also have a certificate of occupancy.

B. Permit required for welding and cutting operations, refrigeration equipment, and other operations as needed. Contact the Chattanooga Fire Department for more information.

C. A permit from Building Inspection is required to install electronic locking devices. The devices must be tested and approved by Building Inspection and the Fire Marshal.

2. Exit Ways

A. Doors must be unlocked and unblocked. Required width of an exit way must be unobstructed.

B. Signs must be illuminated.

C. Electronic locking devices must unlock automatically in the event of a fire alarm or power failure.

D. Stairwell doors must automatically close and latch.

3. Fire Lanes and Access

A. Properly marked and clear of obstructions.

B. Limited access control gates installed across fire lanes must meet requirements of the City of Chattanooga Fire Code.

4. Fire Extinguishers

A. One 2A-10BC rated extinguisher required for every 3,000 sq. ft. of floor space and within 75 ft. of travel. Special hazards may have additional requirements.

B. Mounted in conspicuous accessible locations.

C. Inspected for proper maintenance annually by licensed individuals. Must be recharged following use.

5. Fire Alarm/Detection Systems

- A. Installed in accordance with the Chattanooga Fire Department Fire Code.
- B. Systems installed, maintained, and approved prior to July 1, 2004 are considered to be in compliance with the Chattanooga Fire Department.
- C. Maintained in an operative condition at all times, and replaced or repaired when defective. Notify immediately the Chattanooga Fire Department at 423-643-5604 if fire alarm system becomes non-operational.
- D. Written operating instructions provided and maintained at an approved location.
- E. Manual alarms and smoke alarms should be tested at least annually, and/or after modification.

6. Sprinkler Systems

- A. Maintained in approved working condition. Test at least annually. Notify immediately the Chattanooga Fire Department at 423-643-5618 if sprinkler system becomes non-operational.
- B. Identify controls, drains, and test control valves with approved signage.
- C. Access to valves and/or fire department connections cannot be obstructed.
- D. A sprinkler wrench must be provided. Spare sprinkler heads of the same types and ratings installed in building must be provided for a system as follows:
 - (1) Less than 300 system heads, a minimum of 6 spare heads.
 - (2) 300 to 1000 system heads, a minimum of 12 spare heads.
 - (3) Over 1,000 system heads, a minimum of 24 spare heads.
- E. Maintain an 18-inch clearance between sprinkler heads and storage.

7. Signage

- A. Post a sign in each elevator lobby stating, "IN FIRE EMERGENCY, DO NOT USE ELEVATOR. USE EXIT STAIRS." Include a diagram showing a path to the exits. (Signs shall have letters a minimum of ½ inch high.)
- B. Post a sign in each elevator lobby stating, "Fire emergency plan available for review from the fire safety director".
- C. Post a sign in each stairwell indicating floor number, stairwell number, roof access or no roof access, and upper and lower terminus.
- D. Post a sign on all doors to electrical rooms that reads "Electrical Room".

8. Flammable Liquids

- A. Liquids with a flashpoint under 100 degrees Fahrenheit must not be used for general cleaning purposes.
- B. Stored in approved containers, and must not exceed allowable quantities.
- C. Prohibit sources of ignition.
- D. Provide metal cans with metal lids for the storage of rags soiled with combustible or flammable substances.

9. Kitchens

- A. Fire-extinguishing systems must be installed to protect commercial cooking equipment that produces grease-laden vapors.
- B. If commercial cooking equipment involves vegetable or animal oils and fats, one Class K rated extinguisher must be provided within 30 feet. Existing 40-BC rated fire extinguishers installed prior to July 1, 2004 that are properly maintained shall be permitted.
- C. Fire-extinguishing systems must be serviced at least every 6 months and after activation.
- D. Maintain stove and vent hoods free of grease.

10. Miscellaneous

- A. Conduct quarterly fire drills, and keep appropriate documentation.
- B. Develop an approved fire safety plan.
- C. Provide a public safety key box (Knox Box) with current building keys inside.
- D. Maintain elevator recall in proper working order.
- E. Remove combustible trash daily.
- F. Combustible decorations must be flameproof. Live Christmas trees must be removed when dry. The trunk of live Christmas trees must be kept in water.
- G. Maintain a 24-inch clearance between storage and ceiling.
- H. Provide metal covers for all electrical panels, outlets, boxes, and junctions.
- I. Extension cords must not be utilized in place of permanent wiring.
- J. Fill core and wall penetrations with a 2-hour rated material that is listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

- K. Post a correct street address that is visible from the street. Designate each building in multiple building complexes.
- L. Secure compressed gas cylinders in an upright position.
- M. Gas powered appliances must be properly vented to the outside, have approved flex-type connections, and cut-off valves near the wall.