

FIRE SAFETY IS A STATE OF MIND!!

Hospitals want their facilities to be as safe as possible for their patients, their staff, and themselves. However, unless they are in the Fire Safety business, many people are not aware of the ways to keep their facilities fire safe.

The Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office has developed these informational brochures so our clients may learn some of the tips for fire safety. These tips are based on the most common Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) infractions we find in Hospital facilities.

10 HOT FIRE SAFETY TIPS!!

1. **Exits & Exit Access:** Exit doors, stairways and corridors are provided so that people using the facility have ready access to exit the building in the event of an emergency. Most often, but not always, these exit ways are marked with exit signs. Often, but not always, these doors are operated by panic type hardware, that a person merely has to push to open the door.

Furniture or anything that will keep people from getting to an exit in normal lighting, darkness, or smoky conditions must never obstruct exit access, even temporarily. Also exit doors must never be locked to prevent exiting the building from the inside.

2. **Emergency Lighting:** Many Hospital facilities have emergency generators which require inspecting weekly and exercised under load monthly with annual service, maintenance and load testing. Testing and maintenance is required as per NFPA 110 and 111.

Battery powered emergency lighting where provided is designed to provide minimal lighting in the event of a power outage. They are to provide minimal illumination for up to 90 minutes. The batteries are required to be tested annually for 60 or 90 minutes depending on when the building was built.

3. **Illuminated Exit Signs:** Most Hospital facilities have exit lighting at each required exit door. The lights in these fixtures must be operating at all times. If these fixtures have battery back up they are to be tested the same as the battery powered emergency lights above.

4. **Extension Cords:** Extension cords are to be used for temporary use to a portable appliance *only*. Temporary use includes holiday lighting and other uses that will last only a few days. Extension cords are never to be run through doors, windows, walls, ceilings or under rugs or carpeting. Cords should be in good condition and the same size or larger than the cord of the appliance. If the cord from an appliance does not reach an outlet, a permanent outlet should be added to supply that appliance.

5. **Multi-Plug Adapters:** Multi-plug adapters are designed to allow more than one plug to be plugged into a single outlet. Only approved multi-plug adapters with over-current protection may be used. Relocatable power taps shall be directly connected to a permanently installed outlet. If additional outlets are needed, permanent

outlets should be provided. This type of work should be done by a certified electrician.

6. **Fire Alarm:** All Hospitals have a fire alarm system. These fire alarm systems are required to have annual maintenance, inspection and testing done by a qualified fire alarm technician per NFPA 72. Manual pull stations are required to be visually inspected every six months.

7. **Fire Drills:** Hospitals are Use Group I-2 (institutional) facilities and are required to hold fire drills on a regular basis. The SFPC requires drills quarterly on each shift.

8. **Sprinkler Systems:** All Hospitals have automatic sprinkler systems. Maintenance, inspection and testing is performed on a quarterly basis per NFPA 25. These inspections are to be done by a qualified inspector.

9. **Fire Extinguishers:** Fire extinguishers are required to be located and maintained with service and inspection as required by NFPA 10 annually. Qualified inspectors perform this maintenance. Monthly visual inspections and proper documentation is required for every fire extinguisher. Report any broken, missing or expelled fire extinguishers for repair or replacement.

10. **Records:** Accurate written records of all fire drill, fire alarm tests, sprinkler tests, fire extinguisher maintenance and other testing and inspections along with the fire plan are required to be available for review.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT THE REGIONAL STATE
FIRE MARSHAL'S NEAREST TO YOU.**

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http://www.vafire.com/state_fire_marshall/

FIRE SAFETY

TIPS

FOR HOSPITAL FACILITIES

Based on the
Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code



Presented by

**COMMONWEALTH OF
VIRGINIA
THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S
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