



Michael A. Nutter  
Mayor

# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

240 SPRING GARDEN STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123-2991



Lloyd Ayers  
Fire Commissioner

## Business Fire Safety

**A fire in a business can cause great disruption and can potentially lead to the closure of the business. The Philadelphia Fire Department provides the following Fire Codes and fire safety requirements that are designed to prevent fires and ensure your safety. For more information please contact the department's Fire Prevention Division at 215-686-1382 or 215-686-1383.**

### Fires:

- Have a fire escape plan and ensure all employees know the plan.
- When smoke or fire is seen, sound the fire alarm (if one is installed), ensure occupants leave the building and call the Fire Department via 911.

### Fire Alarms Systems:

- Install the appropriate fire alarm system, if required, and have it inspected and tested annually by a certified company.
- Businesses with dwelling units above them are required to have a fire alarm system.

### Portable Fire Extinguishers:

- Install portable fire extinguishers with at least a 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguishing rating.
- Check fire extinguishers monthly for damage or use and have them serviced annually by a portable fire extinguisher company.

### Exit Signs:

- Exit signs are required to be mounted at exits, always lighted and not obstructed by storage or other items.
- Exit signs are required to be installed where a room or floor will accommodate 50 or more people.

### Aisles:

- Aisles are required to be at least 36 inches wide, clear of storage and lead to exits.

### Storage:

- Storage is required to be neatly arranged and not in danger of tipping over.
- Storage is required to have a clearance of 18 inches from sprinkler heads and 24 inches from ceilings. (This is needed for fire fighting.)
- Do not store anything on stairways.

### Waste Material:

- Combustible materials destined for trash collection should be stored outside in containers with lids.

### Portable Space Heaters:

- Kerosene heaters are not permitted in businesses.
- Electric space heaters are not recommended, but if used are required to be 3 feet from combustibles.

### Electrical Wiring:

- Do not use extension cords, except when connected to a single portable appliance.
- Wiring splices are required to be in junction boxes with covers.
- Do not overload electrical circuits.
- For computer systems, use power stripes to connect multiple electrical cords.



### Heaters and Other Heat Sources:

- Have heaters inspected annually and required maintenance performed.
- Keep storage 3 feet from heat sources.

### Locks:

- Locks on exit doors are required to be unlocked when a building is occupied.
- Slide bolts, key operated locks and brackets with wood laid across the brackets are not permitted on the inside of exit doors.

### Restaurants:

- Exhaust hoods and suppression systems are required over cooking appliances. Keep them clean. Grease is flammable.
- A Type K portable fire extinguisher is required to be installed within 30 feet of cooking appliances.
- This is a relatively new fire extinguisher designed to extinguish grease fires.

**Business Fire Safety**