

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(Q) Why do you conduct fire inspections?

(A) Fire prevention has become an increasingly prominent part of the modern fire service. The Grand Chute Fire Department believes in proactively addressing hazards to minimize the risk of loss of life and property within our community.

(Q) Why do I see the fire truck parked outside during my inspection?

(A) Routine fire inspections are conducted by on-duty fire personnel who remain ready to respond to emergency calls while conducting fire prevention activities.

(Q) Can I keep my gas, charcoal, or wood burning barbeque grill on the balcony of my apartment?

(A) No. It is prohibited by the adopted fire code.

(Q) Can the fire department perform inspection, testing, and maintenance on my fire alarm, sprinkler system, extinguishers, or private hydrants?

(A) No. You must contact a qualified service technician for these services. The fire department verifies the performance of required maintenance during our routine visits.

(Q) Can you recommend a company to service my fire alarm, sprinkler system, extinguishers, or private hydrants?

(A) The Grand Chute Fire Department does not recommend or endorse any one company. We suggest you consult the phonebook to make your selection from a variety of qualified service providers.

(Q) Can the Water Department perform our private hydrant testing?

(A) Yes. They may be contacted at (920) 832-1581.

(Q) Will fire inspectors be easily identifiable?

(A) Our fire inspectors will be in uniform and will prominently display a Grand Chute Fire Department photo identification.

(Q) Why do fire inspectors take pictures during inspections?

(A) Our inspection software allows photos to be attached as supplemental documentation. Both violations and exemplary conditions may be documented for recordkeeping and training purposes.

(Q) I am a new owner / occupant / manager and want to ensure I am in compliance with the fire codes. Can I meet with someone to ensure I am taking the appropriate steps?

(A) Absolutely! Feel free to contact the Fire Department at (920) 832-6050. We would be happy to assist you with any questions you may have.

(Q) I have a question or comment regarding fire inspections? Who can I direct that to?

(A) Please contact Division Chief Matt Kasriel at (920) 380-2996.

(Q) How can I order a Knox Box?

*(A) This can be done online at:
<http://www.knoxbox.com/>*

(Q) Where can I find more information on fire inspections?

*(A) Our Website:
<http://www.grandchute.net/departments/fire/>.*

*Like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/GrandChuteFire>*

*Follow us on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/GrandChuteFire>*

GRAND CHUTE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Fire Prevention Division

ROUTINE FIRE INSPECTION GUIDE FOR BUSINESS OWNERS AND MANAGERS



*2250 Grand Chute Boulevard
Grand Chute, Wisconsin 54913
(920) 832-6050*

ROUTINE FIRE INSPECTIONS

In accordance with Section [291-4\(F\)](#) of the Grand Chute Municipal Code, the Fire Department shall inspect or cause to be inspected all premises on a periodic basis and shall make such orders as may be necessary for the enforcement of the laws and ordinances governing the same and for the safeguarding of life and property from fire.

The frequency of inspections is determined through the analysis of several factors including, but not limited to the use of the building or occupancy, the presence of fire protection systems and features, and special hazards or processes associated with the structure. Inspections may be conducted on an annual or semi-annual basis.

Routine fire inspections are typically conducted by fire personnel Monday thru Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM to allow for the observation of the occupancy under normal operating conditions. If fire personnel are unable to make contact with an owner / tenant / manager, or if there are additional mitigating circumstances efforts will be made to schedule a mutually acceptable time to conduct the inspection.

ADOPTED FIRE CODE

The 2009 International Fire Code (IFC) is the currently adopted fire code for the Town of Grand Chute with the following exceptions:

- Sections 105 and 108 of Chapter 1
- Chapter 34
- Section 307 of Chapter 3
- Section 603.8 of Chapter 6

Additionally, the NFPA codes and standards in Chapter #47 of the IFC are adopted by reference. The Fire Prevention section of the Grand Chute Municipal Code can be found at <http://ecode360.com/12281747>

The 2009 International Fire Code can be found at <http://publicecodes.cyberregs.com/icod/ifc/2009/>

COMMON VIOLATIONS

Common hazards and code violations encountered by fire personnel conducting routine fire inspections includes but is not limited to:

- Address numbering visibility (6" numbers)
- Locked / blocked / obstructed exits and doors
- Non-functional emergency and exit lighting
- Use of extension cords as permanent wiring
- "Piggy-backed" power strips
- Breaker panel clearance (30"W x 36"D x 78"H)
- Combustible storage in mechanical rooms
- Barbeque grill storage on balconies
- Obstructed fire hydrants or FDC's (3')
- Sprinkler head clearance to storage (18')
- Fire extinguishers not mounted on brackets
- Improper / lack of cleaning of kitchen hoods
- Lack of monthly alarm pull station testing

Additionally, certain fire protection systems and features require regular maintenance and inspection by qualified technicians. Common systems and components requiring regular inspections include:

- Private fire hydrants (annual)
- Fire alarm and detection systems (annual)
- Fire sprinkler systems (annual)
- Fire suppression "hood" systems (semi-annual)
- Fire extinguishers (annual)

RECORDKEEPING

Documentation and records associated with fire protection systems and services are required to be maintained on premises for a minimum of three years. Many occupants / owners choose to store and organize these records in a binder or folder so they are easily accessible for fire personnel to review during routine inspections. We recommend that all service and inspection records be maintained in this manner so maintenance and service can be verified.

INSPECTION REPORTS

Fire personnel utilize tablet-based software to perform fire inspections and document findings. Upon completion of the inspection, a copy of the report detailing any violations, as well as the time-frame for a re-inspection (if required) will be emailed to the responsible party. This report should be kept for your records.

RE-INSPECTIONS

The necessity for a re-inspection is determined based on several factors including the number, type, severity, and history of violations noted during routine inspections. Based upon these findings, fire personnel will inform the responsible party of the timeframe in which they can expect the re-inspection to be conducted. This timeframe can range from 24 hours to 30 days depending on the nature and severity of violations.

The routine fire inspection, as well as the first re-inspection are conducted without charge to ensure compliance with applicable fire codes. If the violations have not been corrected upon re-inspection, a \$75.00 fee will be assessed and a second re-inspection will be scheduled. If the violations remain uncorrected at the time of the second re-inspection, a \$150.00 fee will be assessed.

In addition to the re-inspection fees listed above, a municipal citation may be issued for each violation which remains uncorrected after the second re-inspection. A new citation may be issued for each day the violation conditions are not corrected. The fines associated with each citation range from \$237.00 to \$502.00.