

NOBLESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT



CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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Fire Extinguishers

A fire extinguisher can save lives and property by extinguishing a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives. This Code Information Sheet relates to the proper placement, inspection, and maintenance of fire extinguishers, as specified in the 2008 Indiana Fire Code, Section 906, and 2010 NFPA 10. Please seek training and other resources in the proper use of a fire extinguisher.

Placement:

- Fire extinguishers are required in all new and newly renovated businesses.
- As a general rule, a fire extinguisher must be located so there is an extinguisher within 75 feet of travel distance from any point in the building. Certain high-hazard situations require extinguishers closer, often within 30 feet.
- Fire extinguishers must be located in conspicuous locations, and be readily accessible.
- Fire extinguishers should be located along normal paths of travel, preferably near exits to permit escape if necessary and to keep the user from being trapped by the fire.
- In areas where visual obstruction cannot be completely avoided, signs or other means should be placed to indicate the location of extinguishers.
- Fire extinguishers must be installed in cabinets, or on a bracket or hanger. Fire extinguishers that are placed on the floor or a counter are often moved and/or quickly obscured.
- Fire extinguisher cabinets should not be locked, unless they are subject to malicious damage, and a means of emergency access must be provided.
- Fire extinguishers must be installed with the bottom at least 4 inches off the ground. If the fire extinguisher weighs less than 40 pounds, the top of the extinguisher may be up to 5 feet off the ground, otherwise, the top may only be only 3 ½ feet off the ground to permit easy access.

Inspection and Maintenance

- Fire extinguishers must be inspected on an annual basis by a qualified person. There are many companies that provide this service; perform an internet search or look in the Yellow Pages for “fire extinguisher sales and service”.
- Most fire extinguishers also require internal inspections (often every 6 years), and a hydrostatic test every 12 years. The companies referenced above can perform these services as well.
- Fire extinguishers must also be inspected monthly – this inspection is typically performed by the business. On a monthly basis, ensure that the extinguisher is in its designated location, is not damaged, and is properly charged (the needle on the gauge is in the green range), and date and initial the tag on the extinguisher to indicate this has been done.

Disclaimer: This may not be a complete list of all code sections involving this subject, and is not the actual code that regulates this subject. Please reference the adopted codes in the state of Indiana (<http://www.in.gov/dhs/2490.htm>) for complete information.