



RIO VISTA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard 3.6

Fire and Life Safety Inspections

The Rio Vista Fire Department has a program for Fire and Life Safety Inspections at all commercial properties (businesses) within the City. Dependent on staff availability, the inspections are conducted at the convenience of the business owner bi-annually. Some businesses are inspected annually. These fire and life safety inspections are designed to ensure that businesses and commercial occupancies are compliant with the Codes and provide safe conditions for owners, tenants and customers.

The City considers Fire and Life Safety Inspections at these types of occupancies to be a benefit to the owners/operators, their tenants and guests, and are an important part of fire prevention. They not only protect life and property; but, may also protect economic interests. By preventing or reducing losses, the community can help contain the cost of insurance and may help businesses avoid financial disasters stemming from fires.

Firefighters also gain valuable knowledge by visiting your business each year. During the inspection, we are available to answer questions, assist you in preventing losses and we learn about any hazards that may exist to keep our firefighters safe in the event of an emergency.

Are inspections required?

Yes. Some inspections must be conducted for certain commercial properties and properties containing three or more dwelling units including hotels, motels, lodging houses, bed and breakfast facilities, and congregate residences. Some inspections must be conducted annually and some are conducted bi-annually. The California Health and Safety Code, Section 13146.2(a) **mandates** that these inspections be completed annually by the Authority having jurisdiction, while the California Health and Safety Code, Section 13146.2(b) provides the Fire Department legal authority to perform these inspections and cite for violations. The Fire Code authorizes the Fire Department to conduct other inspections on an annual basis or other timeline as established by the Department. Senate Bill 1205 (SB 1205, 2018) now requires a report be filed with the City Council with information on our findings.

The California Fire Code gives us the authorization to bill for the time we spend on Fire and Life Safety Inspections and for required permits. The City Council has authorized our billing rates as per the latest version of the Master Fee Schedule.

For more information, please contact: 707-374-2233