



WHAT'S THE COST?

Your firefighters from Valley Regional Fire Authority and the Community Development staff at the City of Auburn take great pride in the work we do to keep the community safe. Staff members are available to consult with you to identify potential hazards at your place of business. This direct access to technical expertise and professional recommendations provides you the opportunity to correct any issues identified, keeping your business in compliance and will help you protect your livelihood.

ACCORDING TO NATIONAL STATISTICS:

- 40% of businesses do not reopen after a disaster and another 25% fail within one year according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (*FEMA*).
- According to statistics from the United States Small Business Administration over 90% of businesses fail within two years following a disaster.
- Companies that are not able to resume operations within 10 days following a disaster, such as fire, are not likely to survive (*Strategic Research Institute*)
- 93% of companies that lose their data center for 10 days or more due to a disaster such as fire, file for bankruptcy within 1 year (*National Archives and Records Administration of Washington*)

HOW WOULD YOUR BUSINESS RECOVER FOLLOWING SUCH A CATASTROPHIC LOSS?

- The financial impacts of clean up – smoke, water, fire, hazardous material containment and clean up
- Building, equipment and product replacement costs
- Lost revenue from lengthy down time
- Loss of customers and contracts
- Potential legal proceedings from injuries, death, or failure to comply with fire codes
- The emotional and psychological impacts for yourself, your employees and the community

We have seen firsthand the devastation of fire. We want to work together to ensure you are aware of the best ways to reduce your risk, and enable you to comply with the fire codes. These inspections are not intended to punish you or tell you how to conduct business. This is our opportunity to work collaboratively to minimize hazards and ensure you operate your business in a safe manner. We wish you many years of success in our community.

CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH EFFECTIVE FIRE INSPECTION AND CODE COMPLIANCE.

The frequency of fire inspections at your business will vary dependant on the nature of your operations. This is your opportunity to:

- Do a thorough walk through of your business
- Check for potential fire and life safety issues
- Ask questions of the fire inspector
- Help us understand the nature of your operations and the layout of your facility
- Establish a good working relationship with your firefighters and the City of Auburn Code Compliance Officers

Following the inspection, we will notify you of any deficiencies and allow up to 30 days to correct. If during the re-inspection all deficiencies have been corrected your file will be closed and we will see you during your next inspection cycle. Please know our staff members are still available to you should you have questions or concerns before that time.

It is the fire inspector's goal to work with you to achieve full compliance keeping you, your business, and your customers safe. Unfortunately, there are times when the fire inspector must request that the City initiate enforcement action in order to achieve these goals. Taking enforcement action can lead to fines, penalties, and challenges in obtaining permits and licenses in the future. We are pleased to report that our success rate of correcting matters before requesting code enforcement assistance exceeds 99%.



If you have questions please contact:

Valley Regional Fire Authority
253-288-5800 (Ask to speak with a Fire Inspector)
www.vrfa.org

City of Auburn Code Compliance Division:
253-931-3020 (Select option 4)
www.auburnwa.gov/CodeCompliance