



Austin Fire Department
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Common Inspection Violations: High-Piled Combustible Storage

The Austin Fire Department encourages you to apply the following guidance to high-piled combustible storage to avoid common inspection violations.

STEEL STORAGE RACKS

- Are the rack columns/beams bent or damaged?
 - The structural integrity of racks shall be always maintained.
- Are aisles partially or completely blocked?
 - When not actively involved in restocking, aisles shall be kept clear. Fire access doors, aisles and exit doors shall not be obstructed. During restocking operations using manual stocking methods, a minimum unobstructed aisle width of 24" shall be maintained in 48" or smaller aisles, and a minimum unobstructed aisle width of one-half of the required aisle width shall be maintained in aisles greater than 48".

FIRE ALARM:

- Is the alarm system in proper working condition?
 - Fire Alarm must be inspected annually by a licensed inspector and receive a blue tag. This blue tag must state the inspection was for an ANNUAL inspection and the test was ACCEPTABLE. If the test was unacceptable, then either a yellow tag or red tag should accompany the blue tag. If the problems identified on the yellow tag or red tag were fixed, then a white tag should be added stating the yellow or red tag impairments have been corrected. These tags should be affixed to the main fire alarm control panel.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM(S):

- Are Sprinkler system(s) in proper working condition?
 - Sprinkler System must be annually inspected by a licensed inspector and (blue) tagged. This blue tag must state the inspection was for an ANNUAL inspection and the test was ACCEPTABLE. If the test was unacceptable a yellow tag or red tag should accompany the blue tag. If the problems identified on the yellow tag or red tag were fixed, then a white tag should be added stating the yellow or red tag impairments have been corrected. Each sprinkler riser should have individual inspection tags.
- Is the Fire Department Connections (FDC's) plainly visible from the fire access road?
 - An all-weather, permanent, system placard shall be placed in a visible location adjacent to the fire department connection on all structures with a fire protection system requiring pressures exceeding 150psi. Such sign shall have the letters "FDC" not less than 6" high and words in letters not less than 2" high or an arrow to indicate the location. The placard text shall be white reflective letters, on either a red or black background. Such signs shall be subject to the approval of the fire code official.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

- Are fire extinguishers properly mounted with an attached current annual inspection tag?
 - All extinguishers are required to be mounted with a current annual inspection tag by Licensed Fire Technician/Company. The inspection tag must be affixed to the extinguisher. Unless the extinguisher is new, then a receipt showing purchase date is required.
 - A maximum travel distance of 75 ft. from anywhere in the structure to the nearest accessible fire extinguisher.
 - Specialized provisions for portable extinguishers installed on forklifts and other industrial trucks are permitted in accordance with 2021 IFC section 906.1.

EMERGENCY EXITS:

- Are emergency exits blocked or locked?
 - Storage may not obstruct any emergency exit.
 - Emergency exits are to remain unlocked while the structure is occupied.

EMERGENCY EXIT SIGNS AND LIGHTING:

- Are exit signs/lights illuminated and work on utility power and battery backup?
 - Emergency signs and lighting must be maintained and properly function as required.