

Night Club & Restaurant Safety Guide for Business Owners, Employees and Patrons



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For More Information:

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813-274-7000



Fire & Life Safety Codes

Fire and Life Safety rules have been developed for the protection of anyone who might find himself or herself in a night club, restaurant, business or entertainment venue where large numbers of people gather. Unfortunately, most of the safety rules were created as the result of some terrible disaster where many people were injured or even killed.

The goal of Tampa Fire Rescue is to prevent the outbreak of any fire. However, if an emergency should occur, fire and life safety codes provide for:

- 1.) ALARMS: to let people in the building know there is an emergency.
- 2.) EXITS: large and plentiful enough for everyone to escape quickly.
- 3.) AUTOMATIC EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM: or fire sprinkler to try and stop a fire from spreading or extinguish the flames completely.

Alarms and exits are in place to protect people; fire sprinklers are in place to try and prevent damage to property.

**THIS FLYER IS NOT MEANT TO BE AN
EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF FIRE & SAFETY
CODES. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED
TO THE TAMPA FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE.**

Serious Fire & Life Safety Code Violations

Every business owner should be aware of possible violations that can endanger people in an entertainment venue, night club or anywhere that large numbers of people gather. Remember that failure to address life safety violations could lead to the Fire Marshal's Office closing your business until the problem is corrected.

The following are basic items that should be addressed immediately to ensure public safety:

- 1.) Fire exits and stairs that are blocked, locked or otherwise not able to be easily opened.
- 2.) Fire alarm systems that are either damaged or disabled.
- 3.) Use of pyrotechnics (fireworks) inside of any building without a permit.
- 4.) Improper storage or use of any flammable liquid or flammable gases.
- 5.) Use of open flames (such as candles) without proper permits.
- 6.) Too many patrons inside of a building.

Any of these problems should be considered serious and needs to be corrected immediately.





Recognizing and Dealing with Fire and Life Safety Concerns:

Business owners, employees and patrons all benefit from a safe entertainment environment. The Tampa Fire Marshal's Office works closely with business owners to ensure that common fire and life safety violations are identified and corrected.

If you notice fire and life safety problems at a business, there are several steps that you can take to help keep everyone safe:

1.) Notify the business owner, manager or security personnel. Most businesses will correct the problem immediately.

2.) If you see a uniformed Police Officer or Firefighter, make them aware of any violations that you come across.

3.) Contact the Tampa Fire Marshals Office during normal business hours. (813-274-7000)

4.) If you truly believe there is an immediate problem where lives are endangered and the business owner will not correct the problem, call 9-1-1. The Tampa Fire Communications Center will relay your concern to a 24-hour on-duty Fire Investigator.

Common Safety Tips for Patrons

As a patron of a night club or restaurant there are several things that you can do to ensure your safety in case of an emergency:

1.) When entering a facility, note the location of exits other than the main front door. In an emergency, most people will head towards the main exit while other fire exits go unused.

2.) Take a look to see whether or not alternate exits are blocked or locked.

3.) If the building alarm sounds calmly make your way towards an exit and once safely outside make sure someone calls 9-1-1.



West Warwick, Rhode Island, February 20, 2003, 100 killed, 200 injured in club fire started by pyrotechnics.



Chicago, Illinois February 17, 2003 21 killed, dozens hurt when patrons tried to use only exit of nightclub after pepper spray was discharged..

Most Common Fire & Life Safety Code Concerns

- Keep all exit doors unobstructed and unlocked from the inside at all times. All exit doors locked from the outside shall be equipped with panic hardware.
- All fire rated doors provided with door closures shall not be blocked open.
- No storage of any materials is permitted under any stairs or in any exit enclosure unless the storage area is enclosed with a fire rated wall assembly. No storage permitted in any open shafts that go between floors.
- Make sure all fire extinguishers are serviced and tagged up to date. A visual inspection is required to be logged monthly. A service inspection by an extinguisher company is required annually.
- Kitchen hood extinguishing systems require servicing by an extinguisher company every six months. UL 300 Listed Systems are required when using vegetable oils.
- Kitchen exhaust systems shall be maintained free of excessive grease accumulation.
- Fire alarm and sprinkler systems shall be maintained operational and certified at all times.
- Remove all LP Gas cylinders from inside any building or balcony. LP Gas and charcoal grills with hot coals are not permitted within ten feet of openings into the building.
- Remove all extension cords for permanent appliances. Electrical outlets within 6 feet of wet locations shall be provided with ground fault protection. All electrical outlets, switches, breaker panels and appliances shall not expose any open wiring or connectors.
- Flammable and combustible liquids need to be stored in approved containers in approved metal cabinets.
- Oily rags need to be stored in metal containers.
- Smoking areas shall be in approved locations away from flammable and combustible materials.
- Open flames or candles shall not be permitted.
- All interior wall, ceiling and floor finishes shall be Class A or B. (Limits fire spread)