

The Town of Rutherfordton Ordinance No. 03-15 states that all commercial businesses protected by an automatic fire alarm system, automatic suppression system, all newly constructed structures or any business changing ownership OR occupancy must be equipped with a key lock box system (Knox-Box). The cost is a one-time fee and the boxes can be purchased from the Town of Rutherfordton Fire Department or directly from Knox-Box.



To request an inspection please call the Town of Rutherfordton Fire Department at 828-287-3520 Ext. 4

144 N. Mitchell Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139



FIRE INSPECTION CHECKLIST FOR YOUR BUSINESS

**“Fire Prevention
is EVERYBODY’S
business”**





"Our goal is always to assist you in maintaining a safe environment for your employees and customers."
~Rutherfordton Fire & Rescue~

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who needs a fire inspection?

All commercial businesses within the Town of Rutherfordton City Limits and in the Town Limits of Ruth must contact the Town's Code Enforcement Officer at 828-287-3520 Ext. 4 to schedule their inspection.

When do the inspectors do inspections?

Our inspectors do fire and life safety inspections during normal business hours with limited disruptions to your business.

What is the inspection schedule for occupancy type?

Once a year: hazardous, institutional, high-rise assembly and interior common areas of multi-family dwellings.

Twice a year: industrial and educational (except public schools).

Once every three years: assembly occupancies with an occupant load less than 100, business, mercantile, storage, churches.

Common Code Violations:

The following is a list of the most commonly identified hazards uncovered during a fire and life safety inspection. Reviewing these areas in advance will both increase your business's safety and assist you in preparing for an inspection.

- * Address not posted
- * Fire Lanes not maintained
- * Blocked/locked exits
- * Emergency lighting not working
- * No Exit signs posted
- * Fire Extinguishers not serviced annually
- * Fire Sprinklers and Alarms not serviced annually (if applicable)
- * Improper use of extension cords
- * Missing Emergency Evacuation Plan
- * General Housekeeping

Make sure your business passes its next fire inspection. Use the Fire Inspection Checklist below to help you be prepared for your next inspection:

- Are exits and pathways clear?
- Do all exits have an "Exit" sign?
- Are self-closing doors functioning properly?
- Are fire lanes maintained?
- Are cover plates on all electrical boxes and switches?
- Are fire extinguishers mounted without obstruction and serviced in the past year?
- Do you have the right number of fire extinguishers?
- Are extension cords being used properly?
- Is there a 36" clearance around your electrical panel and hot water heater?
- Do you have a posted evacuation plan?
- Is your address posted on the outside of your building?