



VIRGINIA BEACH LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS **FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS**



The Virginia Beach Life Safety Inspections are conducted to verify that minimum life safety codes are in place to protect both patrons and employees of all public establishments utilized for assembly. Inspections are conducted by State Certified Inspectors from the Virginia Beach Fire Marshals Office. These inspections are do not replace your annual fire inspections.

The following is a list of identified areas that inspectors look for in establishments when they review establishments for life safety concerns.

Means of Egress

- The *means of egress* from each part of the structure, including exits, stairways, egress doors and any panic hardware installed thereon, aisles, corridors, passageways and similar elements of the means of egress, shall at all times be maintained in a safe condition and available for immediate utilization and free of all obstructions. Security devices affecting means of egress shall be subject to approval.

Exceeding Occupancy

- A *person* shall not permit overcrowding or admittance of any *person* beyond the approved occupant load. The code official, upon finding overcrowded conditions or obstructions in aisles, passageways or other *means of egress*, or upon finding any conditions which constitutes a hazard to life and safety, shall cause the occupancy, performance, presentation, spectacle or entertainment to be stopped until such a condition or obstruction is corrected and the addition of any further occupants prohibited until the approved occupant load is reestablished.

Exit Signs & Illumination

All "Exit" signs shall be maintained visible, and all illuminated exit signs shall be illuminated at all times that the structure is occupied.

Electrical Hazards

- All identified electrical hazards shall be abated. All identified hazardous electrical conditions in permanent wiring shall be brought to the attention of the electrical code official.

Storage in Buildings

- Storage located in structures shall be orderly and not located within 2 feet (610 mm) of the ceiling, and shall not obstruct the *means of egress* from the structure.

Ceiling Clearance

Storage shall be maintained 2 feet or more below the ceiling in non-sprinklered areas or buildings or a minimum of 18 inches below sprinkler head deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings.

What will happen after the Inspection is conducted?

- Establishments will be given a copy of the Life Safety Inspection form it will note what, if any, violations were found.

What type of action(s) can be taken?

- Nothing if no violations are noted
- Immediate correction - if conditions warrant
- A warning can be given
- A Notice of Violation can be given
- A Summons can be issued

Questions or concerns about LifeSafety Inspections may be addressed by the Virginia Beach Fire Marshals Office at 427-4228.

*By being mindful of these types of violations and regulations, **YOU** can help provide a safe environment for you, your employees and customers to enjoy.*

10/01/04bam