

Fire Safety Inspection Program

Beginning in fall 2026, the Office of the Fire Marshal will begin conducting fire safety inspections of existing buildings and businesses not already covered by another established inspection program.

You don't need to do anything to get on the schedule. Our office will contact you directly to set up the inspection. If you haven't heard from us, you aren't on this year's list.

QUESTIONS

410-289-8780

Ocean City Office of the Fire Marshal

5

Year rotation for occupancies in this initiative

4

Year cycle remains in place for high-rise buildings

Yes

Nearly every commercial occupancy will be inspected

General Inspection Program

Will my occupancy be inspected?

Yes. Nearly every commercial building in the Town of Ocean City will receive a fire safety inspection at least once every five years, either through an existing program or this initiative.

What is not included?

Single-family homes are not included in this program.

How often will my building be inspected?

Buildings in this initiative are inspected on a rotating five-year schedule. Each year, occupancies are randomly selected and contacted to schedule an inspection.

Does an inspection stay valid?

Unless a complaint, referral, or other concern is received, a completed inspection will generally remain valid for five years, even if the property changes ownership.

Are older buildings grandfathered?

No. Older buildings not undergoing major renovation must still meet the minimum fire and life safety standards for existing buildings under the Town's adopted code.

What if violations are found?

You will receive an inspection report outlining violations and a timeframe for re-inspection. For complex issues, OFM may work with owners on a corrective action plan.

Will I be fined or lose my business license?

In most cases, an initial written notice will be issued without a fine so the condition can be corrected. Citations or licensing action are generally limited to uncorrected violations, failure to follow an approved corrective action plan, or serious fire and life safety hazards.

BE PREPARED · WHAT WE LOOK FOR

A quick readiness check for owners before our visit:

- ✓ **Exits free and clear.** Nothing blocking doors, stairways, or the path out.
- ✓ **Emergency lights & exit signs** in working order, where required to be provided.

- ✓ **Fire extinguishers** inspected annually by a Maryland-licensed fire extinguisher company.
- ✓ **Fire protection systems** — alarms, sprinklers, kitchen extinguishing systems — tested and maintained where provided.