



NY Fire Consultants, Inc. Fire Safety Message

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December 2007

Fire Commissioner

Announces Citywide Building Inspection Program

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta on November 7th announced the implementation of several changes to the Fire Department's citywide building inspection program.

The changes - which will greatly improve safety for firefighters and the public - result from a comprehensive review of the Fire Department's citywide building inspection program ordered by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg on August 27, 2007 in the wake of the deaths of Firefighters Joseph Graffagnino and Robert Beddia during a fire at 130 Liberty Street in Manhattan on August 18, 2007.

"This is going to allow us to make better use of our resources with technology, getting information in real time and increased fire prevention training," said Commissioner Scoppetta.

The following changes have been added to the program, including the name - from Apparatus Field Inspection Duty (AFID) to Building Inspection Safety Program (BISP) to emphasize how safety is directly related to inspection work:

- Implementation of a third inspection period each week for every field unit, increasing the amount of time - six to nine hours -- units will be scheduled for weekly building inspections. Less than half of the scheduled inspection time for field units actually gets spent inspecting buildings due to emergency responses, inclement weather, etc.
- Creation of a new computer software program which indexes all buildings - more than 75 feet high that are under construction or demolition - for each individual field unit according to their particular area. This program is now tracking inspections and electronically reminds units when their next inspection is due.
- Added oversight of field inspections by or at the Borough Command level, and additional oversight with compliance measures implemented at Fire Department headquarters in Brooklyn.

- The City's Department of Buildings now notifies the Fire Department of new building or demolition permits issued. That information will be given to field units, which were previously instructed to canvass their areas to learn this information.

"This is a better way for us to account for our inspections and make use of our inspection time," Commissioner Scoppetta said. "It is a much more efficient and effective way to use our resources."

Other initiatives also are being developed to streamline building information and increase training at every level, including the following which are currently underway:

- The Fire Department is currently working with the City's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications in planning an integration of all of our building inspection information, as well as improved information-sharing with the Department of Buildings and other City agencies.
- The Fire Department and Department of Buildings are partnering on a number of information-sharing initiatives, including the Fast-Track Pilot Program which enables chief officers to enter critical information about buildings directly into the Department of Building's "Buildings Information System". This drastically reduces the notification and action time required for DOB officials to address structural concerns that could endanger our members or the public. A pilot program in Divisions 6 and 7 in the Bronx was successful, and soon, it will be expanded to other boroughs.
- With the expansion of probationary Fire Fighters school at the Fire Academy, additional material on fire prevention and inspections has been added to the curriculum. Newly promoted officers at every level also will receive additional training on building inspections in their promotional courses, and a new course is being developed for fire prevention coordinators.

Fire Safety and Awareness Training

Registration form on page 7

Training

As a business owners or manager you have a responsible to ensure your staff understands the safety risks present within the workplace. You are also required to ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to handle a potentially dangerous situation. Training can prepare your staff by enabling them to prevent or safely respond to such situations.

New Trash Compactor Room Requirements

To facilitate Sanitation Department garbage removal, effective December 10, 2007, the Buildings Department will require trash compacting systems be installed in certain types of multiple dwelling buildings.

The Following Building Types Must Comply:

1. New multiple dwelling buildings classified as Hereafter Erected Class B (Hotel).
2. New multiple dwelling buildings classified as Hereafter Erected Class A, if the building:
 - is equal to or greater than four stories; and
 - contains more than 12 dwelling units.
3. Any building that is enlarged and is newly categorized as a Hereafter Erected Class A or B as described above in 1 and/or 2.
4. Any building with up to 50 percent of its floor area renovated and is newly categorized as Hereafter Erected Class A or B as described above in 1 and/or 2.

Plans Must Include the Following:

- Trash compactor room location, clearly marked "Trash Compactor Room", and the room's dimensions.
- Trash compactor size, dimensions and location.
- Clearance space surrounding the trash compactor.
- Sprinkler locations in the trash compactor room.
- Electrical power access for trash compactor equipment.
- Ventilation access to fresh air (via power ventilation or window duct).
- Floor drain connected to the building drain in the trash compactor room.
- Hose bib location in the trash compactor room.
- A minimum fire resistive rating of three hours for the compactor room walls and ceiling material assemblies. (Gypsum masonry may not be used.)
- A fire-protective self-closing door with a minimum fire resistive rating of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
- Construction details for wall material assemblies.
- Sound Transmission Class (STC) ratings are required for:
 - i. all compactor room walls; and
 - ii. all trash-chute walls and trash disposal room walls.
- STC and Impact Insulating Class ratings for floor construction above the compactor room.

Mechanical Equipment Spaces and Shafts with an STC of 50, as shown on the drawings, and Incinerator Charging Chutes must comply with 27-770(a) (2) and (b)


In addition to the instructions above, a professional certification applicant must also check the Yes (Y) box in the "Items Required Prior to Approval" section on page one of the PC-1 and write "Trash Compactor" in the available space.

Fire Safety and Awareness Training

The first four classes are sold out. The first open class is Wednesday, December 12 2007. The classes are scheduled every Wednesday mornings and will run as long as we have this tremendous demand. The classes are held at the New Yorker Hotel located on 8th Avenue and West 34th Street. Our staff is comprised of retired lieutenants, captains and chief officers from the New York City Fire Department. The first set of classes are residential building staff. The seminar will be a PowerPoint presentation approximately 2 hours in duration. A study guide handout and a certificate of completion will be given to each attendee. See page 7 for registration form. The following topics will be covered:

Residential Fire Safety Plans	Discovery & Reporting a Fire
Fire Extinguishers	Goals of Fire Prevention
Fire Prevention Strategies	Housekeeping Issues
Flammable & Combustible Liquids	Electrical Fire Hazards

Our seminars have been specifically designed to reduce the risk of fire through the promotion of fire safety awareness and basic fire training for all staff. Our training provides the building manager and building staff with an overview of their roles in the event of a fire or emergency. It also provides participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to deal with small fires safely, by using portable fire extinguishers, and to develop an awareness of the dangers and causes of fire.



Please note that
our fax number is
718-967-8195

In February 2008 we will be adding an additional course on non-fire emergencies. This training will cover subjects such as; Bomb Threats, Chemical Spills, Power Outages, Shelter In Place, Steam Explosions, Suspected Terrorists and Suspicious Letters or Packages.

For additional information please call 718-432-1600

Fire Safety Training for Hotel Staff

Starting in March we will be presenting a fire safety course. This course is particularly suited for the fire brigade, new employees and security personnel to assist them in identifying and reducing the risk that fire presents in the workplace. The training aims are to provide students with a greater awareness of the threat posed by fire to people, property and the business continuity.

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

A fire on any day seems bad, but a fire on Christmas seems to be the worst. Some 300 Christmas trees caught fire in one recent year, with electrical problems the most common culprit. Here's how to keep your tree green and your presents safe.

1. When you buy your tree, have the vendor make a fresh cut an inch from the bottom; this will help the tree drink.
2. If you buy your tree early and keep it outside, store it away from wind and sun, and keep the bottom in a bucket of water.
3. Make sure your lights are safe. If you need outdoor lights, make sure the ones you buy are meant for outdoor use. Make sure your lights carry certification from a testing laboratory.
4. Don't use electric lights on a metal tree.
5. Discard any strings of lights that are frayed or broken. Christmas lights are cheap.
6. Unplug your Christmas tree before you leave or go to bed.
7. Don't buy a tree that is dry and dropping needles. To check for freshness, loosely grip the end of a branch and pull your hand over it. Only a few needles should fall off.
8. Make sure your tree stand holds plenty of water, and don't let it run out.
9. If your tree seems wobbly, center it in the stand more securely and redo the bolts or screws. If your tree stand is too small; buy a larger, stronger one.
10. If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it is fire-retardant.
11. Keep your tree at least three feet from furnaces, radiators and fireplaces.
12. Try to position the tree near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances.
13. Do not place the tree where it may block exits.
14. When Christmas is over or when the tree starts to drop needles, dispose of it. Don't leave it in your house or put it in your garage.
15. Keep a close eye on small children when they are around the tree; many small decorations and ornaments are sharp, breakable and can be swallowed.

Beware!

Not renewing your NYC certificates and permits will provide city inspectors with an opportunity to pay your building a visit.

The fine for a "failure to renew" violation will cost you, for a first time offense, at least \$250 - \$500. The subsequent inspections may cost you much more. In our experience it is rare for an inspector to issue only one violation during a visit. If one is found, multiple violations are usually issued. This can add up to significant penalties! The key is to not give an inspector a reason to visit. Keep your building's registrations up to date.

We found help, and so have some of the largest NYC Real Estate management firms. It's a company called Cityfile, Their tools are designed specifically for buildings within the five boroughs of NYC. Cityfile helps you organize, track, maintain, educate your staff on all your building compliance requirements and ensures your building is up to date with all city and state regulations. Cityfiles' multi-tiered user access levels allows for owners, administrators, property managers, superintendents, anyone, to receive alerts 90, 60 and/or 30 days prior to pending expirations, creating a support safety net within your organization.

Best of all, a Cityfile representative will populate your current data into their website, where all data is available 24/7. Don't give city inspectors an excuse to inspect your building; let them go to the building next door.

We at NY Fire Consultants suggest you call Cityfile today at (212) 732-2300 to schedule a fifteen-minute presentation; it will be well worth your time.

The New York City Fire Department will be enforcing this law starting in October! If you did not submit your Emergency Action Plan yet expect a visit from the Fire Department soon.

NY Fire Consultants Services:

<u>Fire and Life Safety Consulting</u> Fire and Life Safety Inspections Fire Safety Plans for Residential Buildings (LL 10 of 1999) Fire Safety & Evacuation Plans Commercial (Class E) Buildings	<u>Emergency Procedures Manuals Fire & Evacuation Preparedness Training</u> Hotel Staff Building Service Employees
<u>Emergency Action Plans</u> FDNY Submissions Training Drills	<u>Interior Fire Alarms Consultants</u>
<u>Expert Witnesses Provided</u>	<u>Violations Correction & Removal</u> Environmental Control Board Fire & Building Department Housing Preservation & Development
	<u>Fire Consultantants Construction Protects</u>



NY Fire Consultants, Inc.

**165 McBaine Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10309
(718) 432-1600 (718) 967-8195 fax**

Fire Safety & Awareness Training For Residential Building Staff

**Wednesdays
10:00 am**

- Residential Fire Safety Plans
- Discovery & Reporting a Fire
- Fire Extinguishers
- Goals of Fire Prevention
- Fire Prevention Strategies
- Housekeeping Issues
- Flammable & Combustible Liquids
- Electrical Fire Hazards

**New
Class**

Non-Fire Emergencies Training For Residential Building Staff

**Wednesdays
1:00 pm**

- Suspicious Letter or Package
- Bomb Threats
- Suspected Terrorist
- Steam Explosion
- Shelter In Place
- Chemical Spills
- Threatening Behavior
- Power Outage

**Starts
February 6th**

Both seminars are 2 to 2 ½ hours in duration. A study guide handout and a certificate of completion are provided to each attendee. Course fee is: \$ 75.00 for each course

Central location- Hotel New Yorker West 34th St. & 8th Avenue (Suite 1570)

Mail in Registration Form

Students must Pre-Register

Student Name: _____ Employed by: _____

Work Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell/Pager: _____

Email: _____

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Doors Open 9:30 for AM class and 12:30 for PM class Classes start at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Please circle class or classes you wish to attend AM or PM Fee: \$ 75.00 for each course

January 16, 2008 AM January 23, 2008 AM January 30 2008 AM

February 6, 2008 AM PM February 13, 2008 AM PM February 20, 2008 AM PM

February 27, 2008 AM PM March 5, 2008 AM PM March 12, 2008 AM PM

Company Checks or Money Orders Payable to: **NY Fire Consultants, Inc.**

Mail payments to: **NY Fire Consultants, Inc.**, 165 McBaine Avenue, Staten Island NY 10309



Personal Life Safety Guide Book

Fireproof Residential Apartment Buildings

The Personal Life Safety Guide Book offers a quick reference for fire and life safety emergencies. A must for residential building staff.

Bomb Threat
Carbon Monoxide
Chemical Spills
Extreme Heat
Fire
First Aid
Gas Leaks
Heart Attack

Person Trapped in Elevator
Poisoning
Power Outage
Robbery or Mugging
Shelter in Place
Suspected Terrorist
Suspicious Packages
Threatening Behavior

HOTEL
EMPLOYEES
GUIDE BOOK
NOW AVAILABLE
CALL

- Overall size 3-1/2 " x 5-1/2"
- Coated card stock
- Emergency telephone numbers can be written on back
- Comes with a vinyl pouch that fits in your shirt pocket

Prices:

<u>100 +</u>	<u>500 +</u>	<u>1000+</u>
\$4.50 ea.	\$4.25 ea.	\$3.75 ea.

Combine building orders and Save



Basic Emergency Information at Your Finger Tips

Phone (718) 432-1600
Fax (718) 967-8195
Email: info@NYFireSafe.com

