



# ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention  
4700 Elmore Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507  
Phone (907) 267-4900 / Fax (907) 267-7788



As the owner of a multi-family property (3-plex or larger) within the Municipality of Anchorage you are responsible for providing a safe living environment for your tenants and/or occupants. As authorized by [Anchorage Municipal Code 23.05.010](#) your building must comply with the standards listed in the appropriate sections of the International Fire Code and International Building Code. These properties are subject to a routine Fire Inspection approximately every 2 years.

In an effort to help you make your building compliant to these standards, and ultimately making a safer living environment and protecting your building, we have compiled a list of common fire code problems. Anchorage has a wide variety of buildings and there may be exceptions to the codes depending on a many factors or features of your building. If you have or believe to have any of these issues in your building and need help understanding if these apply to your building, you may contact the Anchorage Fire Department Fire Prevention Division at 267-4901. This list is designed to show the problems in many of the average 3 to 8-plex apartment homes.

**Proper Egress Windows** - Each sleeping room must have a window that is easily operable without any special knowledge, and that window must be a minimum of 20” wide and 24” tall. *HOWEVER*, the total unrestricted opening must be 5.7 ft<sup>2</sup>, so a 20”x24” window is not sufficient. IFC 1029.1 & 1029.2

**Laundry & Mechanical Room Doors** - Many buildings have a common laundry and/or mechanical room. The door that separates this area from the hallway leading to the apartments shall be a fire rated solid core door that closes on its own and latches shut. This door should also be free of any alterations, labeled “FIRE DOOR-KEEP CLOSED”, and shall not be allowed to be propped open at any time. IFC 703.1 and IBC 508.2

**Repairs in Sheetrock**- Over time, damage happens. However the laundry rooms, mechanical rooms and corridors have been designed and built using the drywall as a protective element to slow any spread of fire. Any holes or penetrations where pipes cross through should be repaired or filled with the appropriate materials. IFC 703.2

**Improper storage**- Storage space is always an issue and there never seems to be enough. Despite the convenience, storage is not allowed in mechanical rooms, in crawlspaces, under exterior stairways or in common areas where it can restrict a path of egress. This

includes the piles of shoes that are consistently found outside apartment doors in hallways. IFC 315.3

**Grills On Patios** – Grills either charcoal or propane are not allowed to be operated or stored upon a balcony or deck or within 10 feet of combustible construction. Anchorage has seen many high dollar loss fires in recent years as a result of cooking on decks. IFC 308.1.4 & IFC 605.5

**Electrical Issues** - Outlets or switches that are missing the covers or head bolt heater outlets missing weather proof covers are common finds. Also you may not use an extension cord, power strip or multi-plug adapter for anything other than temporary uses. IFC 605.4

**Building/Apartment Identification** - Your address should be in contrasting color to the building, and easily readable from the street. Each apartment should also be labeled with its unit number in an easily identifiable way. In the event of an emergency the fire department may be able to find your building quickly but you wouldn't want time wasted trying to find the right apartment. IFC 505.1

**Smoke Alarms** - A building owner shall provide smoke detectors to each apartment so that there is one in each sleeping area, and an additional detector in the common area outside of the bedroom(s), usually a hallway. IFC 907.2

**Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms** - Any apartment with a fireplace, gas burning appliance, or with a connecting wall to a garage shall have a working CO detector. IFC 908.7

**Fire Extinguishers** - Apartments shall be provided with fire extinguishers; however owners are given two options. A 1A rated (2.5 lb) extinguisher can be supplied to each unit, *or* a 2A rated (5lb.) extinguisher can be supplied in the common area on each living level as long as it is within 75 feet of any unit on that floor. If the second option is chosen, these need to be mounted to the wall with the top no higher than 5' from the ground. Regardless of choice, these need to be inspected by a State of Alaska Class II certified extinguisher inspector on an annual basis. A certification tag shall be affixed to the extinguishers showing they are current. IFC 906.1 & 906.2

**Knox Box Program** - Installation of a Knox box is required by fire code and is part of a high-security key box system, designed to give firefighters and emergency services immediate access to locked buildings, elevators, and other secured areas. View <http://www.muni.org/Departments/Fire/Prevention/Pages/knox.aspx> for more information on obtaining a box. IFC 506