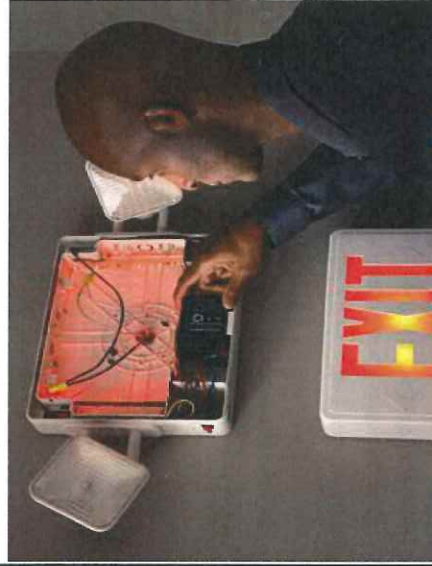


**The top ten Fire Code violations commonly found during Fire Inspections are:**

1. Exit problems such as; blocked aisles, blocked/locked doors, and blocked open fire doors.
2. Broken or defective electrical fixtures (broken, missing outlet or switch plate covers and electrical light fixtures, unprotected splices).
3. Fire extinguishers in the businesses failing to have annual inspections by a qualified extinguisher company.
4. Improper storage of combustibles too close to heat sources or ceilings and the improper storage and use of flammable liquids/ hazardous materials.
5. Extension cords used as substitute for permanent wiring, cords used in the path of travel, and daisy chained surge protectors.
6. Inoperative Exit Signs and Emergency Lights due to burned out bulbs and bad batteries for back up in case of electrical power failure.
7. Bad housekeeping without regular trash removal.
8. Blocked Electrical Circuit Breaker Panels (A minimum clearance of 30" is required in front and to the sides of panels).
9. Fire Alarm, Fire Extinguishing and Sprinkler Systems failing to have routine servicing/testing by a qualified company.
10. Street address numbers not displayed or not the proper size.



Daisy chained surge strips.



Inoperative Exit Signs & Emergency Lights.



Tagged and inspected fire extinguishers done annually.



**FIRE INSPECTIONS  
101**

**NC FIRE PREVENTION  
CODE**

*Jackson County is committed to satisfying the NC Fire Prevention Code's standards in order to preserve and protect public health and safety while upholding the requirements set forth in NC General Statutes: 153A- 364, 160A-424, 153A-351 and 160A-411.*





Downtown Sylva Fire 2014

## Fire Inspections

Fire Codes can be traced back to certain fires in the early 1900's that had significant loss of life. Such fires as the Iroquois Theatre Fire in Chicago, the 2003 Station Fire in West Warwick, RI, and most recently to date, the Ghost Ship Fire in Oakland, CA have all proven the importance of overall life safety in the built environment. All these fires have common denominators when it comes to the outcome and loss. Such things as lacking fire extinguishers, travel distance to exits, the locking or obstruction of exits, and the understanding of interior decorations in regards to flame spread are a few of the contributing factors in these historic fires involving the loss of human life. In North Carolina, we have suffered loss through fire, most notably Richmond County's Hamlet Fire in which a chicken processing plant was found to be locking emergency exits from the outside with chains, due in part to the suspicion of employees stealing chicken via emergency exits. Twenty-five employees lost their lives and 55 were injured due to the locked emergency exits. This incident began a movement in NC to ensure our fire prevention

inspections had the necessary tools to educate, engineer and enforce minimum fire code standards as set forth in the NC Fire Prevention Code. Local ordinances addressing fire prevention and protection began to emerge throughout the state, thus giving the local authorities the tools necessary to ensure compliance throughout their jurisdictions. Here recently, "in the Middle of the Most," Jackson County has had two significant fires occur, one in 2013, and the other in 2014. Thankfully, there was only loss of property and no loss of life.

Through fire inspections, Fire Code Officials have a major duty to preserve and protect public health and safety, and to satisfy the requirements of inspection duties as a Code Enforcement Officer. Jurisdictions shall have a periodic inspection schedule for the purpose of identifying activities and conditions in buildings, structures, and premises that pose dangers of fire, explosion or related health hazards. The Jackson County Code Enforcement office is the lead agency for state mandated fire inspections throughout the County and its municipalities. State qualified Fire Code Enforcement Officials work to ensure compliance with the minimum standards set forth by the NC Fire Prevention Code and applicable local ordinances. Our current fire inspector, Chris Moore, was hired in 2014. He is a 2001 graduate of WCU and was previously employed by the US Forest Service's Nantahala Ranger District in Fire Management.



Cullowhee Fire 2013

Generally, all businesses and commercial buildings are required to have periodic fire inspections. Section 103 of the NC Fire Prevention Code sets forth a minimum inspection schedule.

Our inspection process is designed to, one, look at items that history has proven to cause or in-

- 1 Year Inspections-** Assembly-(Restaurants, Clubs and places of entertainment); Hazardous-(Hazardous-materials, flammable-liquids facilities); Institutional- (Hospital, nursing homes, licensed care facilities, jail); High-rise Buildings and residential except for one and two family dwellings.
- 2 Year Inspections-** Industrial facilities; Educational facilities (Except for public schools).
- 3 Year Inspections-** Business; Mercantile, Storage facilities; Assembly- (occupant load less than 100 such as Churches and synagogues).

tensify fires, two, if a fire occurs you can get out safely.

An inspector will contact business and commercial building owners to schedule these mandated inspections. Copies of our fire inspection forms are available for review. If any issues are found at time of inspection, then a time frame to correct these issues will be communicated and agreed upon. The severity of those issues will ultimately drive that time frame. Penalty fees have been set forth for noncompliance. Our goal is to work with owners to make buildings safe.

### Jackson County Code Enforcement Fire Inspections

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[www.jacksonnc.org/code-enforcement](http://www.jacksonnc.org/code-enforcement)