

Seattle Fire Prevention Division

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High-Rise Building Inspection Program

High-rise buildings present a unique risk to public safety because they often contain large concentrations of people above the reach of aerial ladders.

Following up on a pilot study conducted in 2017, the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) is now implementing a citywide high-rise inspection program beginning in January 2018. A small team of inspectors from the Fire Prevention Division has been created to provide high quality, consistent inspections in high-rise buildings throughout Seattle. The program will:

- Help us better meet our mission of preserving property and protecting the lives of those who live and work in high-rise buildings.
- Create a better partnership between SFD and building managers and engineers.
- Relieve the inspection burden on SFD's responding engine companies, particularly in downtown Seattle. These companies experience some of the highest run volumes in the City, and relieving them of their heavy high-rise inspection responsibilities will help improve emergency availability and response times.

Due to the complexities of high-rise building fire protection systems and management, SFD requires a responsible party to be present to join our inspectors during the inspection. SFD offers the opportunity to request a specific inspection date and time, so you can plan to have staff available for the inspection. We also intend for your building's inspection to occur in the same month each year, so that you understand the inspection schedule and can be prepared. If you wish to request a specific inspection date/time, please contact our office at SFD_FMO_HighRise@seattle.gov or (206) 386-1340. Otherwise we will inspect your building each year on a schedule determined by the SFD inspection sequence.

There is an inspection base fee of \$217 plus \$217 per hour. The fee will offset the cost of hiring dedicated firefighter-prevention inspectors in the Fire Prevention Division to support this program and customers.

SFD has prepared a variety of helpful information tailored specifically for tenants and residents of high-rise buildings, and managers and fire safety directors in high-rise buildings. Please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/fire/safety-and-community/workplace-fire-safety>. In addition, SFD maintains a number of additional client assistance memoranda (CAMs) that are intended for high-rise building owners and managers.

These CAMS include:

#5051 - Fire Safety and Evacuation Plans

#5963 - High Rise Building Emergency Evacuation Drills

#5982 - High Rise Fire Emergency Planning Requirements

CAMs are available on the department website at <http://www.seattle.gov/fire/firecode>.