PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS GUIDELINE


PURPOSE

This guideline is intended to ensure compliance with City of Conroe requirements concerning installation of portable fire extinguishers. The regulations regarding portable fire extinguishers are found in the 2009 International Fire Code (IFC) and 2007 NFPA 10. The City of Conroe Fire Department Fire Marshal’s Office will not issue a passing Fire Inspection Survey Report unless all requirements pertaining to portable fire extinguishers are met.

SCOPE

This guideline is intended to provide the minimum requirements for the installation and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers, as required within the jurisdiction of the City of Conroe Fire Department. It is intended to be a simplified guide applicable to most occupancies within the City of Conroe. It is not intended to replace the adopted fire code and amendments in whole, or in part. Your occupancy may have special requirements, not outlined in this document.

PLAN SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Locations of portable fire extinguishers shall be shown on all submitted architectural plans. General notations such as “Fire Marshal to determine locations of fire extinguishers” will not be acceptable. Plans submitted without locations of portable fire extinguishers, placed according to this guideline, will be rejected by the City of Conroe Fire Department Fire Marshal’s Office.

WHERE REQUIRED (2009 IFC: 906.1)

Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In all Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, R-1, R-2, R-4 and S occupancies.
2. Within 30 feet of commercial cooking equipment.
3. In areas where flammable or combustible liquids are stored, used or dispensed.
4. On each floor of structures under construction, except Group R-3 occupancies, in accordance with Section 1415.1.
5. Where required by the sections indicated in Table 906.1.
6. Special hazard areas, including but not limited to laboratories, computer rooms and generator rooms, where required by the Fire Marshal.

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SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION (2009 IFC: 906.3)

For Light (Low) and Ordinary (Moderate) hazard occupancies, the minimum fire extinguisher designation shall be 2-A:10-B:C. Maximum travel distance to extinguishers shall not exceed 75 feet.

2 1/2 pound, or “kitchen extinguishers” are not addressed in the fire code. While these have been accepted to meet requirements in apartments in the past, they are no longer considered acceptable. Extinguisher requirements for apartments can be met by placing a 2-A:10-B:C extinguisher in each apartment, or by placing them on the outside of apartment buildings in such a manner as to meet the 75 foot requirement stated above.

COMMERCIAL KITCHEN FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (2009 IFC: 906.4 and 906.1)

Commercial cooking equipment involving vegetable or animal oils and fats shall be protected by a Class K rated portable extinguisher. The extinguisher shall be located within a 30-foot travel distance of commercial-type cooking equipment.

CONSPICUOUS LOCATION (2009 IFC: 906.5)

Extinguishers shall be located in conspicuous locations where they will be readily accessible and immediately available for use. These locations shall be along normal paths of travel, unless the Fire Marshal determines that the hazard posed indicates the need for placement away from normal paths of travel.

UNOBSTRUCTED AND UNOBSCURED (2009 IFC: 906.6)

Fire extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured from view. In rooms or areas in which visual obstruction cannot be completely avoided, means shall be provided to indicate the locations of extinguishers.

HANGARS AND BRACKETS (2009 IFC: 906.7)

Hand-held portable fire extinguishers, not housed in cabinets, shall be installed on the hangars or brackets supplied. Hangars or brackets shall be securely anchored to the mounting surface in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions.

CABINETS (2009 IFC: 906.8)

Cabinets used to house fire extinguishers shall not be locked.

Exceptions:

1. Where fire extinguishers subject to malicious use or damage are provided with a means of ready access.
2. In Group I-3 occupancies and in mental health areas in Group I-2 occupancies, access to portable fire extinguishers shall be permitted to be locked or to be located in staff locations provided the staff has keys.
**HEIGHT ABOVE FLOOR (2009 IFC: 906.9)**

Portable fire extinguishers having a gross weight not exceeding 40 pounds shall be installed so that its top is not more than 5 feet above the floor. Hand-held portable fire extinguishers having a gross weight exceeding 40 pounds shall be installed so that the top is not more than 3.5 feet above the floor. The clearance between the floor and the bottom of the installed hand-held extinguishers shall not be less than 4 inches.

**MAINTENANCE (2007 NFPA 10: 7.3.1.1.1)**

Fire extinguishers shall be subjected to maintenance not more than 1 year apart, at the time of hydrostatic test, or when specifically indicated by an inspection. Each fire extinguisher shall have a tag or label securely attached that indicates the month and year the maintenance was performed and that identifies the person performing the service.

**ILLUSTRATIONS (Not to scale)**

**PROPER MOUNTING OF PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

**WALL**

- <= 5 Feet From Floor
- >= 4 Inches From Floor