



Pea Ridge Fire Department Risk Reduction Division

293 S. Curtis Ave
Pea Ridge, AR 72751
(479) 451-1111



Top Fire Code Violations & How to Stay Compliant (Based on the 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code)



1. Improper Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

- **Requirement:** Fire extinguishers must be:
 - Readily accessible (not blocked).
 - Properly mounted and have current inspection tag.
 - Annually inspected by a licensed technician.

Code Reference: 2021 AFPC §906.3, §906.5, §906.6

- **Most Common Violation:** Missing or expired inspection tag.
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2. Blocked Fire Exits

- **Requirement:** Required exit doors must be:
 - Free from obstructions and be in working order.
 - Unlocked from the inside and available to use without special knowledge or tools.
 - Clearly marked and shall only be used as a means of egress.

Code Reference: 2021 AFPC §1010.1, §1010.2, §1022.1, §1032.2

- **Most Common Violation:** Doors, corridors, or stairways used as exits are blocked or locked improperly.
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3. Exit and Emergency Lighting Deficiencies

- **Requirement:**

- Exit signs must be illuminated at all times.
- Emergency lighting must activate upon power failure.
- Visibility of exit signs must be maintained.
- Test monthly and keep records.

Code Reference: 2021 AFPC §1008, §1013.6.3, §1032.4

- **Most Common Violation:** Backup battery for exit signs and emergency lights not functional.



4. Improper Use of Extension Cords / Power Taps

- **Requirement:**

- Use only for temporary purposes.
- Plug directly into wall receptacles, not daisy chained.
- Do not substitute for permanent wiring.
- Shall not extend through walls or ceilings, under doors or carpets, be subject to damage or impact.

Code Reference: 2021 AFPC §603.5.2, §603.6

- **Most Common Violation:** Extension cords used with permanent fixtures.



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5. Fire Alarm System Maintenance

- **Requirement:**

- Systems must be inspected and tagged annually by a licensed technician.
- Keep records of inspections for review by Fire Marshal.

Code Reference: 2021 AFPC §907.8.4

- **Most Common Violation:** Fire alarm systems not regularly tested or tagged.
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6. Fire Sprinkler System Deficiencies

- **Requirement:**

- Sprinkler heads must be clear of obstructions.
- Systems must be inspected and tagged annually by a licensed technician.
- Keep records of inspections for review by Fire Marshal.

Code Reference: 2021 AFPC §901.6

- **Most Common Violation:** Fire Sprinkler System not regularly tested or tagged.
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7. Commercial Kitchen Hood Suppression Systems

- **Requirement:**

- Must be inspected and serviced every **6 months** by a licensed technician.
- Nozzles and fusible links must be clean and in working order.

Code Reference: 2021 AFPC §904.13.5.2

- **Violation Example:** Failure to perform required bi-annual inspections.



8. Improper Storage in Electrical & Mechanical Rooms

- **Requirement:**

- Rooms must be clear of storage.
- Electrical panels must have 36" of clearance.

Code Reference: 2021 AFPC §315.3.3

- **Violation:** Storing combustibles or blocking access in these rooms.



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Stay Compliant

- Schedule inspections with your Fire Protection Systems technicians to keep sprinkler systems and fire alarms compliant.
- Train staff on fire safety basics – Know where fire extinguishers are.
- Keep all records on-site and available for review.

Notice

This guideline lists some of the most common fire code violations found by the Fire Inspector's Office and is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all code requirements. Some code requirements listed may not apply in every situation. Additionally, there may be other requirements base on each building and or occupancy. These requirements are established from the 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code, City of Pea Ridge Ordinances, and NFPA codes.

Have questions or need an inspection?

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riskreduction@cityofpearidgear.gov