



FIRE DEPARTMENT

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ATTENTION APARTMENT PROPERTY OWNERS

Fires in multi-family residential structures, such as apartments, represent a high life hazard due to the large number of people that can be affected by one single code violation.

California Health and Safety Code sections 13146.2 & 17921 (B) requires annual inspections of buildings with 3 or more dwelling units, including apartments, motels and hotels, by the responding Fire Department.

In 1984, the California Legislature passed a law, mandating local fire authorities to annually inspect all hotels, motels and apartment buildings, collectively known as R-1 occupancies, within their jurisdiction.

This may seem new to some apartment owners, however the Merced County Fire Department engine companies have been performing inspections for the past twenty years to pro-active owners requesting annual inspections.

This inspection will conclude various life safety issues regarding compliance with all provisions of the California Building Standards Codes and all referenced documents contained within.

On May 12, 2009, Merced County adopted a permit fee schedule for annual inspections regarding apartments.

The Fee schedule is based on size of complexes as follows:

Small Complexes (3-4 units) \$170.00
Medium Complexes (5-15 units) \$339.00
Large Complexes (16 or more units) \$509.00

Please refer to our inspection checklist, visit our website at www.co.merced.ca.us or contact our office for additional information that can prepare and assist you during the inspection process.

To achieve compliance with the law, please contact the Merced County Fire Prevention office to schedule your fire, life and safety inspection within sixteen (16) days at (209) 385-7347.