

How to Calculate Your Inspection Fee

A calculation that uses a base rate, multiplied by two factors that require additional time and expertise, determines the basic fee for Fire Safety Inspection fees. Fees are adopted by resolution (R2013-016 Fee Resolution, Table III) and are based on the actual cost of the program to the City.

A) Base Rate (\$40.00) x B) Square Foot Factor (1 – 6) x C) Degree of Difficulty Factor (1-3) = Inspection Fee

To calculate the inspection fee for your business, find the factor in box B) (below), based on the building footprint of your business, and box C) (below), based on the complexity of the inspection. Record the factors in the spaces below and multiply, A x B x C, to find your basic inspection fee. Minimum fee = \$40.00, maximum fee = \$720.00

A) Base Rate **\$40.00** X B) Square Foot Factor (1 – 6) _____ X C) Degree of Difficulty Factor (1-3) _____ = \$ _____ Inspection Fee

A) Base Rate = \$40.00

A minimum fee of \$40.00 is assessed for a basic Fire Safety Inspection. Use Square Foot Factor and Degree of Difficulty Factor to determine the final basic inspection fee.

Note: The basic inspection fee includes a primary inspection visit and one re-inspection. Any subsequent visits will be charged the actual costs of the visit at an hourly rate and may lead to legal action, which could result in additional fees and fines.

Additional Fees:

Hourly fees are charged for inspection services that are above and beyond the annual visit, including re-inspections for noncompliance or an increased frequency schedule.

Hourly Inspection Fee = \$85/hr

B) Square Foot Factor

Sq. Ft. of Building	=	Factor
0 - 1,000 Sq. Ft.	=	1
1,001-3,000 Sq. Ft.	=	2
3,001 - 10,000 Sq. Ft.	=	3
10,001-40,000 Sq. Ft.	=	4
40,001 - 80,000 Sq. Ft.	=	5
80,001 Sq. Ft. or higher	=	6

C) Degree of Difficulty Factor

Complexity	=	Factor
Low	=	1
Medium	=	2
High	=	3

1 - Low. Basic fire inspection on fire extinguishers, exiting, combustible storage, minimal International Fire Code knowledge.

2 - Medium. Basic (1) plus knowledge on hood/duct systems, fire extinguishing systems, fire alarm systems. Considerable knowledge on International Building Code, International Fire Code, and their adopting ordinances, National Fire Protection Association 13 (Installation of Sprinkler Systems), National Fire Protection Association 72 (National Fire Alarm Code), National Fire Protection Association 96 (Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operation).

3 - High. Extensive knowledge of (1) and (2) plus International Building Code, International Fire Code, National Fire Protection Association, National Electrical Code, International Mechanical Code, and their adopting ordinances. Special hazards, flammable and combustible liquids, special systems (CO₂-Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing System).



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The program is not new to Tumwater—the City had a commercial inspection program from the late 1980s to 2002, when the position was eliminated due to funding. The program has benefits beyond basic life and property safety, it also has financial benefits.

A formal prevention program is essential to maintain Tumwater's fire rating. To retain Tumwater's current Fire Protection rating of "5," the Washington Survey & Ratings Bureau (WSRB) requires a specific level of service in four core areas: staffing, water accessibility, training, and fire prevention programs. A loss in rating status would directly impact commercial fire insurance rates in the community.

WHY IS THERE A CHARGE?

The fee for Fire Safety Inspections is based on the actual costs to the City for the program. Inspections are intended to help Tumwater businesses by preventing fire and injuries. Inspection visits provide information, education and enforcement, based on the City's adopted fire code. A regular inspection program leads to less business interruption from fire/injury, faster recovery from an incident, and lower insurance rates!

About the International Fire Code (ICF)

The City of Tumwater adopts fire code by ordinance. The current adopted code can be found in Tumwater Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 15.16 International Fire Code. A free online version of the ICF can be found on the International Code Council website.

Questions?

For questions about City services or rules that affect your business, please contact:

City of Tumwater
555 Israel Road SW
Tumwater, WA 98501
(360) 754-5855
www.ci.tumwater.wa.us

Community Development Department
cdd@ci.tumwater.wa.us
(360) 754-4180

For questions about the Fire Safety Inspection Program, fees and billing, or other safety and prevention programs, contact:

City of Tumwater Fire Department
311 Israel Road SW (office)
555 Israel Road SW (mailing address)
Tumwater, WA 98501
(360) 754-4170
Email: tumwaterfire@ci.tumwater.wa.us



City of Tumwater

Commercial Fire Safety Inspection Program About Fees

The Fire Safety Inspection Program was re-established in 2013 by the City of Tumwater. The program is designed to provide fire prevention education to reduce injury and loss of property and keep businesses operating safely in Tumwater.

Because the Fire Inspection and Safety Education program has both private and public benefit, the new program is funded by a cost-sharing model where businesses pay a fee for inspection services.