

# Sweetwater Fire Department

900 East Broadway | Sweetwater, Texas 79556

Phone: (325)235-4304 | Email: [jsmith@coswtr.org](mailto:jsmith@coswtr.org)

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February 7, 2023

Dear Community Partner,

The City of Sweetwater Fire Department has served this community since 1908. The mission of The Fire Marshal Division within The Fire Department is to reduce the likelihood of incidents that result in loss of life or property and to mitigate all other losses through a proactive, comprehensive fire inspection program. The heart of the plan focuses on compliance through cooperation and education.

Within the next 7-10 days please contact my office to schedule a fire inspection of your property. As the Fire Marshal for the City of Sweetwater, I strive to be courteous and open minded to the concerns of the business community. I would like to conduct these inspections at a time that is convenient for you and that will cause the least disruption in your day. It is my goal to work with businesses to see hazardous or life-threatening fire code violations corrected immediately and determine reasonable time frames for compliance with less serious violations.

Attached, you will find a list of the most common fire code violations found. Please make an effort to correct any of these issues that you find prior to the inspection date.

I look forward to working with you to help make the City of Sweetwater a fire safe community for all to live in, work, and visit. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to **call me at (325)-235-4304 or e-mail me at [jsmith@coswtr.org](mailto:jsmith@coswtr.org)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Smith".

Lt. James L Smith  
SFD Fire Marshal  
[jsmith@coswtr.org](mailto:jsmith@coswtr.org)

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## Most Common Fire Code Violations

1. ADDRESS MUST BE CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD WITH 5"-6" NUMBERS WITH CONTRASTING COLORS TO THE BUILDING
2. EXIT SIGNS MUST BE INSTALLED OVER ALL EXIT DOORS, HARD WIRED WITH BATTERY BACKUP. (MOST COMMON PROBLEM BURNED OUT BULBS)
3. EMERGENCY EXIT LIGHTING MUST BE HARD WIRED AND PROVIDE SUFFICIENT LIGHTING TO ILLUMINATE EXIT ACCESS. (MOST COMMON PROBLEM BURNED OUT BULBS AND DISCHARGED BATTERIES)
4. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS MUST BE MOUNTED IN CLEAR VIEW AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE. MUST BE SERVICED ANNUALLY AND TAGGED (MOST COMMON PROBLEM PAST DUE INSPECTION)
5. ELECTRICAL PANELS AND HEAT PRODUCING APPLIANCES MUST HAVE 36" CLEARANCE OF STORAGE
6. GENERAL HOUSE KEEPING MUST BE NEAT AND ORDERLY (MOST COMMON PROBLEM PRODUCT BLOCKING EXIT DOORS AND AISLE WAYS)
7. DUMPSTERS MUST BE MINIMUM OF 5' AWAY FROM BUILDING
8. COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS MUST BE CHAINED IN PLACE
9. ELECTRICAL JUNCTION BOXES MUST HAVE PROPER COVERS IN PLACE
10. COMMERCIAL KITCHEN APPLIANCES INCLUDING HOOD AND DUCT SYSTEM MUST REMAIN FREE OF GREASE ACCUMULATION
11. COMMERCIAL KITCHEN SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS MUST BE INSPECTED EVERY 6 MONTHS AND TAGGED
12. PENETRATIONS IN WALLS AND CEILING MUST BE REPAIRED (MOST COMMON PROBLEMS ARE MISSING CEILING TILES AND HOLES IN STRUCTURAL MEMBERS FOR CABLE OR WIRING)