



Fire Safety for Bars and Nightclubs

Provided by the Springfield Fire Department
Community Risk Reduction Division
(417) 864-2300

DID YOU KNOW...

...**EVERY** bar and nightclub in Springfield is required to comply with the 2018 International Fire Code, adopted by the City of Springfield?

...**EVERY** bar and nightclub has an occupancy load?

- The occupancy load allowance is based on occupant egress and other life safety factors. An occupancy load exceeding the posted maximum occupant load for an individual room or building shall be considered an unsafe condition and will be addressed by immediately reducing the number of occupants in the room or building and may result in additional measures including the issuance of a citation or closure of the business.
- Each establishment is responsible for keeping a count of the number of patrons entering and leaving the establishment. If that count cannot be produced or the count is not accurate, the establishment may be subject to immediate action at the discretion of the Fire Marshal.
- Per fire code, every room that is an assembly occupancy shall have the occupant load of the room or space posted in a conspicuous place, near the main exit or exit access doorway. Posted signs shall approved by the City.

...**EVERY** bar and nightclub is required to have a fire safety and evacuation plan?

- The fire evacuation plan must include emergency egress or escape routes
- It must contain procedures for accounting for employees and occupants after evacuation has been completed
- The plan must include a description of the emergency voice/alarm communication system alert tone and preprogrammed voice messages, where provided.
- The fire safety plan must include the procedure for reporting a fire or other emergency.
- It must include a floor plan identifying the exits, evacuation routes, egress routes, areas of refuge, exterior areas for assisted rescue, manual fire alarm boxes, portable fire extinguishers and fire alarm annunciators or controls.

...**EVERY** bar and nightclub is required to hold 4 fire drills each year?

- Drills shall be held at unexpected times and under varying conditions to simulate the unusual conditions that occur in case of fire.
- They may be conducted while the establishment is closed to the public.
- Records shall be maintained of required emergency evacuation drills and include the date and time of the drill, notification method used, staff members on duty, number of occupants evacuated, special conditions simulated, problems encountered, weather conditions and time required to complete.

(continued)



...**EVERY** bar and nightclub is required to train employees in fire emergency procedures?

- Employees shall be trained in fire prevention, evacuation and fire safety as part of new employee orientation and at least annually thereafter.
- Records shall be kept and made available to the fire code official upon request.

...**EVERY** bar and nightclub is required to show proof that an annual inspection has been conducted on:

- fire extinguishers
- fire sprinkler system
- fire alarm system
- exit/egress
- hood and duct system

Common hazards in bars and nightclubs....

The following are hazards commonly found during inspections of Springfield bars and nightclubs.

1. Blocked exits are a constant problem
2. No exit sign; exit lights out
3. Doors locked during hours of occupancy
4. Overcrowded
5. No occupant load sign posted
6. Tables in exit paths
7. Fire extinguishers not present or not serviced
8. Candles on tables in unsafe holders
9. Extension cords or other electrical problems
10. Draperies placed over exit doors/exit door painted similar to adjacent walls
11. Decorations, draperies not fire retardant treated
12. Lack of panic hardware and/or door hard to open
13. No emergency lighting
14. Locks and latches on exit doors
15. Painted sprinkler heads
16. Lack of visible address

Fire Marshals are always willing to work with owners and managers to ensure these violations do not occur. However, they will take immediate corrective action when necessary. We plan to meet with all bar and nightclub owners on an individual basis to discuss your fire safety and evacuation plan, training program, occupancy load and other issues that may impact the safety of your employees and patrons. To schedule your meeting, please call (417) 864-1500 during regular business hours.