

For Immediate Release

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Key checks could prevent fire prevention down time for all facilities

We encourage staff to do simple checks of fire alarm equipment, and during fire drills, that may prevent citations during an inspection.

A scheduled check of the fire alarm panel may prevent trouble on an inspection if there is an alarmed status on the panel. This could simply be a daily check by someone on staff, as these devices should be in a location where staff can easily view it.

Another good way to keep fire prevention equipment in solid working order is to test your egress doors, that are critical to moving residents to safety in an emergency, during your drills. Fire drills can provide the perfect opportunity to test your doors of egress to make sure they are releasing properly. Some are designed to open for escape and others to close to contain smoke or fire damage.

The most important aspect of fire protection systems are the lives they are designed to protect. Keep your fire prevention systems in good working order by doing simple checks interspersed with the monthly, or yearly checks with contractors.

What also should be checked monthly are fire extinguishers. Three things on the devices must be checked, and notated, usually on the back of the tag on the extinguishers. You should check that the devices have pressure showing on the gauge and this is in a green area. You should check that the retaining clip is still connected and make sure the nozzle is cleared and ready for discharge.

These simple steps can keep your fire prevention equipment in good working order, as it always should be. It can also prevent a citation on your next inspection.