

# New York City Fire Department Annual Hazardous Material Inspections Frequently Asked Questions



## What are New York City Fire Department (FDNY) hazardous material (hazmat) inspections?

The FDNY conducts inspections of permitted areas where hazardous materials (e.g., flammable liquids, corrosives, compressed/liquefied gases) are stored and used. The hazardous material areas may include building mechanical equipment rooms, research laboratories, clinical laboratories, animal facilities, and other service areas.

## How often are FDNY hazardous material inspections?

The FDNY conducts annual hazardous material inspections as part of the FDNY hazmat permit renewal process. The FDNY is on-site weekly to conduct these annual inspections.

## Are FDNY hazmat inspections announced, and can they be scheduled in advance?

FDNY hazmat inspections are unannounced and cannot be scheduled in advance but typically occur near the FDNY hazmat permit expiration date. EHS does not receive prior notice of the specific hazmat areas to be inspected and only learns which areas will be inspected on the day of inspection.

## What does the FDNY inspection process involve?

The FDNY inspector, accompanied by EHS, assesses the storage, handling, and use of hazmat chemicals and related fire safety issues, including the presence of staff with appropriate FDNY certificates of fitness.

## How does EHS help hazmat owners prepare for FDNY inspections?

EHS routinely inspects and provides outreach and training to hazmat areas. Specific to the FDNY hazmat inspection program, EHS staff will meet with the hazardous material owner and/or their official designee in advance of the anticipated inspection. During this walk-through, EHS staff will

1. Review the [common FDNY hazmat violations](#)
2. Assist the hazmat owner in assessing their current operations
3. Provide assistance in correcting any issues identified during the walk-through. EHS staff is also available to provide additional training upon request.

## What happens if the FDNY finds violation(s) during the inspection?

The FDNY hazmat inspection and violation process is outlined on the following page. In general, EHS will verbally communicate the finding(s) to the hazmat owner or designee (if available). Depending on the nature of the issue, EHS can assist with the immediate resolution of the violation. An FDNY Violation Summary is distributed to the hazmat owner identifying the violation(s) observed, required corrective action, and due date via Salute, a web-based EHS management system. In the event of a recurring violation, the Violation Summary will also be sent to Department Chair, Administrator, and University Counsel.

## Will EHS provide assistance to laboratories in resolving violations?

Yes, EHS staff assigned to the hazmat area will provide assistance, consultation, and/or training to resolve the violation.

## After the violation(s) are corrected, how is the FDNY violation dismissed?

In order for an FDNY violation to be dismissed, the FDNY Inspector must re-inspect the entire hazmat area to confirm that the original violation has been corrected and that there are no new violation(s) observed. Upon successful completion of the FDNY inspection, the FDNY will dismiss the violation. If new deficiencies are observed, a new violation will be issued.

## What will happen if the violation(s) are not corrected in a timely manner?

The FDNY violation order escalation path is to issue a criminal court summons for uncorrected or repeat violations.

## FDNY Hazardous Material Inspection Timeline



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