



Safety and Risk Management

Building Inspections

Occupational Safety inspects all university facilities and residence halls at least annually to ensure compliance with Life Safety Codes and the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. During a building inspection, the safety officer will visit all areas of a building to check for fire or life safety problems. The most common compliance issues found during campus building inspections are:

- **Space Heaters.** Space heaters with an exposed element or coil are not permitted. Oil-filled space heaters, which resemble small radiators, are acceptable.
- **Extension Cords and Power Strips.** Extension cords should only be used for temporary connections. Additional electrical outlets should be installed for permanent connections. Extension cords frequently cause fire, electrical and trip hazards. Power strips must have a circuit breaker and re-set button.
- **Storage.** Boxes, equipment, and other materials shall not be stored in corridors, stairwells or hallways. Stored items may impede a swift egress in an emergency situation.
- **Electrical appliances.** Should not be placed on combustible surfaces such as plastic mats or wooden countertops.

Once the inspection is complete, the inspecting safety officer will submit a report to the building or area manager. The building or area manager is required to correct all deficiencies in a timely manner. A response from the building or area manager is requested within 30 days to document compliance. The Safety Officer will submit any necessary corrective work orders to Facilities Maintenance or Plant Operations and track them to completion.