

**Danville Fire Department**  
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Emergency: 911

**FIRE & LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS**

This document is intended as a guide to ensure that all parties have a clear understanding of the installation and inspection requirements for the Town of Danville. These installation and inspection requirements are subject to revision and update without notice as changes are imposed by the applicable NFPA and BOCA codes.

Below are items of concern that are most often in question. However, the inspection is not limited to just these items – all applicable fire safety rules, regulations and codes will be enforced. In the case of an ambiguity, that of the “safest” approach will apply.

**I. FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS**

- A. Inspections will be “phased” to ensure proper installation before any cover up. This applies to chimneys, vents and any appliance that cannot be fully viewed after finish is applied.
- B. Inspections will be based on NFPA, BOCA, and any manufacture’s instructions that have been approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

**II. SMOKE DETECTOR SYSTEMS**

- A. New construction must meet all of the latest applicable codes. The system shall be hard wired to house current, sympathetic, and with battery backup. In areas of chronic faults, a “rate of rise” heat detector may be substituted. There shall be one detector in the space of each fuel burning appliance, one for each level of the structure, one for each “sleeping space”, one in the attic area or any 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> floor unfinished areas that are subject to potential conversion for occupancy and one in each section of any enclosed garage.
- B. Re-inspections of existing “single family occupancy” structures will be based upon the codes in effect at the time for the original inspection. All other structure inspections will be based upon present day codes.
- C. When older system units require replacement or expansion, they will be replaced with up-to-date appliances.

**III. HEATING APPLIANCE SYSTEMS**

- A. Clearance of units to combustibles will be per manufacturer’s recommendations.
- B. A four by four foot (4’x4’) square of “fire code” sheet rock shall be installed over the unit, but may be substituted by a properly installed approved residential sprinkler head.
- C. No reduction in size of exhaust pipe or barometric damper control will be allowed.
- D. Through-the wall power vent systems will not be located in a captive combustible space that is not well ventilated unless it is specifically engineered and approved for such installation.
- E. The venter must not be down sized over one size regardless of calculations.
- F. No external termination of a power venter system will be approved that does not meet all clearance requirements and said venter system must be free of environmental restrictions.
- G. To ensure that the structure is not subject to a vacuum from normal exhaust devices under “winter time” conditions, make up air shall be provided via an open duct equal to the exhaust pipe area. This duct shall be as close to the fuel burning appliance as possible, meeting all spacing requirements of exhaust verses air intakes. [An appropriate alternative method may be utilized, provide said method cannot be circumvented.]
- H. All fuel burning appliances shall be properly vented using the manufactures recommended/approved venting installation procedures.

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**IV. FUEL OIL STORAGE TANKS**

- A. The maximum fuel oil storage capacity in an unprotected installation shall be no more than six hundred and sixty (660) gallons.
- B. A vent system must be provided for each fuel oil storage tank.
- C. The tank outlet will be such that the outlet is not subject to breakage. This may be accomplished by mounting the entire assembly under the tank or by installing a proper "swing joint" assembly.
- D. The burner supply line must be protected by sleeving and grout.
- E. The clearance between the storage tanks(s) and the burner unit must be a minimum of five feet (5').
- F. All storage tanks must be mounted such that they tilt toward the outlet end.

**V. L.P. STORAGE TANKS**

- A. All L.P. storage tanks must be piped per current existing code.
- B. Only outside L.P. storage tanks are allowed.
- C. The following clearances to structures and/or property lines must be adhered to:

<u>Capacity (gallons)</u>	<u>Clearance (feet)</u>
Less than 125	0
Less than 501	10
Less than 2,001	25
Less than 30,001	50

**VI. STRUCTURES WITH ENCLOSED GARAGE AREA**

- A. All enclosed garage areas within a structure shall be completely isolated with a minimum of a single layer of 5/8" "fire code" sheet rock.
- B. The pass through door to the occupancy area shall be a class "B" labeled door and casing assembly and must be self closing.
- C. The security of this ninety (90) minute rating is an item that will be checked rigorously.

**VII. OUTSIDE ENCLOSED CHIMNEY CASE**

- A. All outside enclosed chimney cases shall be sufficiently vented to meet requirements of the appliance manufacturer.
- B. All outside enclosed chimney cases shall have a convenient inspection door or panel that is easily removed by a simple screwdriver for future inspection in an emergency situation.

**Effective January 1, 1995:**

- BOCA section 1010.4 Emergency Escape – at least one (1) window in every bedroom will be required to meet this section. This window must meet the 5.7 ft<sup>2</sup> net clear opening requirement; the minimum net clear opening height shall be 24 inches, and the minimum net clear opening width shall be 20 inches.
- BOCA section 1211.2 Access to Attics – access to any attic having a net clear height of 30 inches or greater shall be provided with an opening of a least 22 inches by 30 inches. Whenever attic access is provided, a light and high temperature rate-of rise detector shall be provided.

If there are any questions regarding this fire & life safety inspection guide, or to schedule an inspection please contact:

**M. David Kimball, Fire Chief**  
382-5025 (home)  
382-5133 (Dept.)

Questions may also be referred to the building inspector, Russ Pouliot at 642-8581.

Revised: January 01, 2003 October 3, 2002, May 06, 2002, April 06, 2002, August 28, 2001, September 16, 1998, April 15, 1996, December 28, 1994 & July 7, 1994