



**Monterey Park Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Division**

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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY PROGRAM**

**Question 1 – How are inspection fees calculated?**

A three unit, single story complex is calculated as one floor. However, if one or two of those units are on a second floor, the fee is calculated as two floors. The inspection fee for one floor is \$123.80 and for two floors is \$235.10.

**Question 2 - If you are charging on a per floor basis, why do you need to know how many units I have?**

The information allows us to schedule inspections, update our records, and provides us with the necessary details to be able to dispatch the appropriate size of responding units in the event of an emergency in your complex.

**Question 3 - What forms do we need to return to the Fire Department?**

The pre-inspection checklist, invoice with payment, and Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Certification. The checklist allows us to gather the primary safety issues about your property and help you prepare for the inspection.

**Question 4 - The pre-inspection checklist indicates that if we answer “NO” to any question, we will need to correct it. Some items appear to indicate that we will have to make the expense to install new systems. Is this the case?**

The pre-inspection checklist identifies the primary safety issues on your property. Not all of the questions apply. At a minimum, every unit should have Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Device, and fire extinguisher. Answer the questions to the best of your ability. If the question does not apply, check-off the “N/A” (Not Applicable) box.

**Question 5 – When asking that the owner or agent for the owner to confirm that the Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide devices are operating properly, how is this accomplished?**

Inspect and test the Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide devices, check that they are listed by the California State Fire Marshal, and are properly working. If it is a battery-type device, you have checked the batteries are working.

**Question 6** - What if I don't know if my Smoke Detectors or Carbon Monoxide are state approved or installed correctly?

Check the owner's manual, look for the independent testing laboratory's seal, and the California State Fire Marshal mark on the device. Replace devices older than ten years. If you don't know, then it's time to replace them.

**Questions 7** - Can we call to schedule the Fire and Life Safety inspection?

Due to the large volume of apartment complexes in our city, we cannot accommodate individual appointments.

**Questions 8** - What is the difference between a Carbon Monoxide Alarm and a Carbon Monoxide Detector?

A Carbon Monoxide alarm is a standalone unit with a built-in power supply and audible device. These units are typically installed in single family dwellings. A Carbon Monoxide Detector is a system unit is designed to be used with a fire alarm system and receives its power from a fire alarm panel.

**Question 9** - Can I replace my existing Smoke Detector with a Carbon Monoxide device?

No, both Smoke Alarms/Detectors and Carbon Monoxide devices are required in all dwellings. However, a combination Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarm/Detector will satisfy both requirements.

**Question 10** – Fire extinguisher(s) are required, what do I need to do?

Contact a licensed fire extinguisher company. You can find a contractor in the phone book under "Fire Extinguishers." Before hiring a contractor, check the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) web site, [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov), or call at (800) 321-CSLB, to ensure the contractor is licensed and in good standing.

**Question 11** – What about vandalism? Can I keep the fire extinguisher(s) indoors?

You may install an outdoor fire extinguisher cabinet or provide an extinguisher indoors. If you have an indoor extinguisher, you must provide proof of purchase and certification.

**Question 12** – I have a two-story building with one unit on each floor; do I need to provide a fire extinguisher on each floor? Yes.

**Question 13** – Do we need to provide a fire extinguisher in the laundry room? Yes.