



Layered **Fire** Protection

FOR BUILDING OWNERS



**SAVE
LIVES**

**PROTECT
PROPERTY**



Add Layers to Reduce Risk

Layered fire protection relies on multiple safeguards to minimize fire loss.

A balanced plan includes both passive and active fire protection systems. Active systems, such as fire extinguishers, kitchen hood systems, and sprinklers, work to contain or extinguish fires. Passive systems, like fire doors and smoke partitions, help prevent the spread of fire and smoke.

Codes and standards outline the minimum requirements for commercial buildings. Larger buildings, especially those with higher occupancy, require more extensive fire protection layers. The greater the risk, the more layers are needed to ensure safety.



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

The first step is to check NFPA 10, the standard for portable fire extinguishers which mandates the type, size, placement and number of extinguishers required for your building.

Research by the NFPA and U.S. Fire Administration shows that using a fire extinguisher in the early stages, the higher the success rate in putting out the fire. Statistics show that 94 percent of the time a portable fire extinguisher is used, it puts out the fire—typically in the first 2 minutes. The sooner a fire is extinguished, the lower the risk to life and property. If a fire is allowed to grow, it generates more heat and activate the sprinklers, leading to more damage. Early use of a fire extinguisher reduces heat and toxic smoke.

Regular maintenance of fire extinguisher maintenance is critical for fire safety. The NFPA provides guidelines for regular inspection and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers.

94 PERCENT

**of the time a portable fire
extinguisher is used,
it puts out the fire—typically
in the first 2 minutes.**



8 Steps to a Layered Fire Protection Plan

1

FOLLOW THE CODE

Codes and standards contain the minimum requirements for buildings. Building owners must comply with the fire codes mandated by city, state and federal laws.



Good life safety planning relies upon a program where building owners are doing more than what is asked.

2

EVACUATION PLAN

Building owners should post evacuation plans throughout the building so that occupants become familiar with the routes and meeting points. Building occupants should practice the evacuation plan during scheduled fire drills.



Know where primary and secondary exits are located in your building.

3

ALARM SYSTEMS

Alarm systems notify building occupants of fire. Alarms are installed throughout the building and need to be checked regularly.



Alarms should be in working order on each floor of the building.

NFPA 72

4

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Key personnel must be properly trained according to their specified fire safety responsibilities. This may include hosting in-house safety seminars for hands-on fire extinguisher training.



All training documentation must be kept on file within the human resources department of each business.

5

FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Trained technicians strategically place extinguishers throughout your building. They service the extinguishers regularly so the right extinguisher is readily available and will work during an emergency.



Occupants should be familiar with the location of extinguishers and read the operating instructions prior to an emergency.

NFPA 10

6

EMERGENCY LIGHTS & EXIT SIGNS

Every building should have working emergency lights and visible exit signs so occupants can safely evacuate buildings in a timely manner during emergencies.



Building owners and facilities managers should make sure they are regularly tested and maintained.

NFPA 101

7

FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM

Fire suppression systems provide fast, on-site protection at the earliest stage of a fire. They effectively extinguish specific types of fires in certain parts of buildings such as cafeteria kitchens.



NFPA standards provide specific criteria for places where pre-engineered systems are mandated such as restaurants, commercial kitchens and industrial areas.

NFPA 17A

8

STANDPIPE & HOSE SYSTEMS

Standpipe and hose systems are on-site, in buildings where fire department response time may exceed five minutes.



Needed in buildings such as offices, dormitories, schools, airports, hotels and hospitals.

NFPA 14



Quality is Behind the Diamond®

7595 Gadsden Hwy.
P.O. Box 81
Trussville, AL 35173
(205) 655-3271



www.amerex-fire.com
webstore.amerex-fire.com
customer.service@amerex-fire.com
intl.sales@amerex-fire.com