



# FIRE SAFETY AND FIRE PREVENTION IN SUPPLY STORES

## KEEP YOUR SUPPLY STORE SAFE AND LEGAL

Supply stores may require a Fire Department Permit and Certificate of Fitness. Supply stores in this handout include hardware stores, home improvement stores, plumbing supply or automotive supply stores. The amount of dangerous products determines if you require a Fire Department Permit and Certificate of Fitness.

It is important to ensure that your store is safe for both customers to shop and employees to work. There are some dangerous products that may be found in supply stores. The Fire Department has safety rules for them. For example, improper handling or storing of cleaning products, paints, or aerosol products are possible fire hazards.

The Fire Department issues permits for the location to ensure the products are handled or stored properly. Certificate of Fitness holders are required to make sure the products are safely stored and handled.

## REGULATED AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

### AEROSOLS



#### WHAT ARE THE AEROSOL PRODUCTS YOU MAY SEE IN YOUR SUPPLY STORE?

Shaving cream, window cleaners, rug shampoos, hair sprays, deodorants, antiseptics, spray paint, etc.

#### WHY ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

Aerosol cans are under pressure. When heated, they may explode, burning nearby workers and showering them with steel shrapnel. Also, if the product in the aerosol can is ignitable, it is possible a fire would start.

#### WHEN DO YOU NEED FIRE DEPARTMENT PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS?

If you have more than 1,280 fluid ounces (ex. 80 aerosol cans of 16 ounces) of aerosols in your supply store, a Fire Department permit and an A-49 Certificate of Fitness are required.

## LPG (PROPANE) AND OTHER FLAMMABLE GAS CONTAINERS



#### WHY ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

LPG (Propane) catches fire easily and gas vapors lay low to the floor. The buildup of propane in an enclosed space can be ignited by the smallest spark and cause an explosion and fire. The explosion can kill the people nearby.

Acetylene catches fire extremely easily. Acetylene must always be stored upright because of its instability property. Shock can cause an explosion.

#### WHAT IS LPG (PROPANE) USED FOR?

Propane is used for barbeque grills, heaters at construction sites and torch work.

#### WHAT IS ACETYLENE USED FOR?

Acetylene is used for torch work.

## WHEN DO YOU NEED FDNY PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS?

If your supply store has more than 47 lbs. of propane (ex. three or more 20 lbs. of propane tanks), FDNY permit and G-44 Certificate of Fitness are needed.

If your supply store has more than 400 Standard Cubic Feet of acetylene FDNY permit and G-98 Certificate of Fitness are needed.

## LIQUIDS THAT COULD EASILY BURN



## WHAT ARE THE IGNITABLE (FLAMMABLE) LIQUIDS YOU MAY SEE IN YOUR SUPPLY STORE?

Nail polish remover, sanitizer, rubbing alcohol, oil based paint and paint related materials, varnish, waxes and polishes, etc.

## WHY ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

The ignitable (flammable) liquids will create vapors that can easily burn at low temperatures by a spark.

## WHEN DO YOU NEED FIRE DEPARTMENT PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS?

If your store has any of the following conditions, a Fire Department permit and a C-92 Certificate of Fitness are required.

1. More than 5 gallons of highly ignitable (flammable) liquids. Examples: nail polish removers, paint removal products, paint cleaning products, varnishes, lacquers, etc.
2. More than 10 gallons of ignitable (flammable) liquids. Examples: windshield washer fluid, spray oil lubricant mineral spirits, such as WD-40, etc.
3. More than 20 gallons of oil based paints.

## PRODUCTS THAT BURN YOUR SKIN OR PRODUCE OXYGEN



## WHAT ARE THESE PRODUCTS YOU MAY SEE IN YOUR SUPPLY STORE?

Products may burn your skin or damage to metal or other materials (corrosives): Sulphuric acid in car batteries, tarnish removal liquids, powered drain cleaner, household bleach and mold removal products.

Products may produce oxygen that helps fire burn (oxidizers): Pool chemicals, agricultural fertilizers, etc.

## WHY ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

Some liquids can burn and destroy body tissues on contact. They begin to cause damage as soon as they touch the skin, eyes, or the metal. Some liquids may be toxic and can cause other health problems. Some liquids or solids are readily responds to burning materials. They are materials that increase the chance of a fire or explosion.

## WHEN DO YOU NEED FDNY PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS?

If your store has more than one of the following quantities, FDNY permit and C-42 Certificate of Fitness are needed.

### ➤ CORROSIVES:

55 gallons of liquids or 1000 pounds of solids

➤ **OXIDIZERS:**

Class 1: 55 gallons of liquids or 550 pounds of solids Example are some pool chemicals or some fertilizers

Class 2: 10 gallons of liquids or 100 pounds of solids

Class 3: 1 gallon of liquids or 10 pounds of solids

Class 4: Any amount

\*Note: some pool chemical and fertilizers may fall into a more dangerous class.

AIR CONDITIONER

**AIR CONDITIONER AND FUEL OIL**

There are other items that may require a Fire Department permit. These items include **roof mounted or more than five horsepower backyard or floor mounted air conditioners**. Also if you heat with **fuel oil** you will require a permit. If you have any of these items that are talked about in this brochure or other fire safety questions you can call (718)999-2457 and someone will be able to assist you.



IMPORTANT TIPS

**COMMON VIOLATIONS FOUND IN SUPPLY STORES**

1. Not having fire extinguishers mounted throughout your store, or if the fire extinguishers are not seen. Not having fire extinguishers checked annually, or if they are not checked by a certified fire extinguisher company.

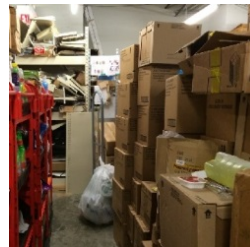
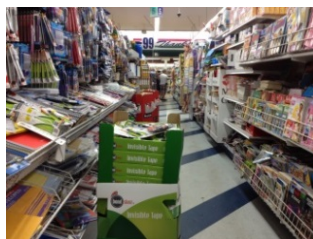


WALL-MOUNTED EXTINGUISHER

ANNUAL SERVICING TAG



2. Bad housekeeping: having aisle space that is blocked or having empty cardboard boxes stacked in back room.



**HOW TO RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS?**

You can receive the Certificate of Fitness if you pass the Fire Department exam. The exams are given at 9 Metrotech Center Brooklyn, NY 11201. The Fire Department gives study material free of charge to help prepare for the exam. Study material is available online at:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/fdny/index.page>

OR

Call 718-999-1988 to request



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE AN FDNY SUMMONS?

If you receive an FDNY summons, you must return the gold copy of the violation within **35** days. If you have any questions about the FDNY summons that you received, there is a number of the issuing unit on the top right of the FDNY summons. If you need a copy of the Certificate of Correction it can be found at the following address:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/fdny/downloads/pdf/business/violation-certificate-of-correction.pdf>

