Business Owner Pre-Fire Inspection Checklist

The St. Helena Fire Department’s Office of Fire Prevention has developed this checklist to assist building and business owners to avoid fire code violations. This list does not include all violations, but represents those commonly found during inspection. This list should be used year-round as a reminder to **maintain fire code compliance**. Fire inspections can be performed at the discretion of the Office of Fire Prevention without prior notice. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the St. Helena Fire Department at the number listed above.

1. **Fire Extinguishers**
   a) Fire Extinguishers shall be charged and show proper pressure on gauges (in the green).
   b) Extinguishers shall be tagged by a licensed fire protection contractor within the last year.
   c) Extinguishers shall be accessible, located within 75 feet of travel in any direction and securely installed on a bracket (if not in a cabinet) with the top no more than 5 feet above the ground.

2. **Address Posting**
   a) Commercial address shall be 12" in height and suites shall be 6" in height.
   b) Address shall be clearly visible from the street on contrasting background.

3. **Exiting**
   a) All exit doors shall be unlocked from the interior, shall not be equipped with additional locking devices, and shall be clearly labeled with 1" high letters stating “THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN BUILDING IS OCCUPIED”
   b) No exit doors shall be obstructed from access. Any materials that may prevent immediate dispersal shall be removed and all exit hardware shall be in operable condition.
   c) No flammable or hazardous materials shall be adjacent to an exit.

4. **Electrical Hazards**
   a) Electrical panels shall be unobstructed and have a clearance of not less than 36" in front of them.
   b) All circuits shall be clearly labeled as to what they control.
   c) Extension cords are not allowed to be used as permanent wiring.
   d) The use of multiplug adapters is prohibited. Surge protectors are permissible only when plugged directly into the wall and not connected (“daisy chained”) to any other surge protector or extension apparatus.
   e) Open junction boxes and open-wiring splices are prohibited.

5. **Storage**
   a) No storage shall be located in a boiler, electrical or mechanical room.
   b) Storage shall not be placed within 24" of the ceiling or 18" for sprinklered buildings.

6. **Hood Extinguishing Systems**
   a) Hood suppression systems shall be serviced not less than every 6 months.
   b) Hood and ducts shall be maintained and cleaned annually by licensed professionals to prevent grease accumulation.