

A Campus Fire Safety Message from



Homeland Security
and Emergency Services

Fire Prevention
and Control

Fire Safety Considerations Related to COVID-19 Safety Planning

As Colleges and Universities begin to develop safety plans for their operations, Fire Safety should also be considered. Here are some selected topics related to COVID-19 that are addressed in the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.

Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer (ABHS):

(References are based on the 2020 Fire Code of New York State (FCNYS), Section 5705.5)

Dangers of ABHS Video (NFPA): <https://youtu.be/1P3GjIBKwI8>

- Maximum capacity of each ABHS dispenser shall be 68 ounces (2L).
- Minimum separation between ABHS dispensers shall be 48”
- ABHS dispensers shall be 1” minimum away from an electrical receptacle, switch, appliance or other ignition source. The wall space between the dispenser and the floor/countertop shall be free of electrical receptacles, switches, ignition sources, etc.
- ABHS dispensers shall be mounted so the bottom is not less than 42” and not more than 48” above the finished floor.
- ABHS dispensers shall not be installed in carpeted areas, unless a fire sprinkler system is installed in the fire area.



Corridor Installations (FCNYS 5705.5.1)

- Maximum capacity of each ABHS dispenser installed in corridors shall be 41 oz.
- Maximum quantity allowed within a corridor in a control area shall be 10 gallons.
- Minimum corridor width shall be 72”.
- Projections into a corridor shall be in accordance with FCNYS Section 1003.3.3.

Storage (FCNYS Table 5003.1.1(1))

- Any excess product shall meet the maximum allowable quantity within chapter 50
 - o Per Control Area* (non-sprinklered)
 - Class IA – 30 gallons
 - Class IB & IC – 120 gallons
 - o Per Control Area (sprinklered)
 - Class IA – 60 gallons
 - Class IB & IC – 240 gallons

** Spaces within a building where quantities of hazardous materials not exceeding the maximum allowable quantities per control area are stored, dispensed, used or handled. A control area is typically separated from other portions of the building by fire rated construction. If no fire rated construction exists, an entire building may be one control area.*

Barrier placement:

- Any barriers installed shall not impede the means of egress for the space.
- Any barriers installed shall not block any fire protection features, including, but not limited to: Smoke detectors, sprinkler heads, CO detectors, fire extinguishers, manual pull stations.
- Plastic barriers secured to walls shall not exceed 10% of the wall area. (FCNYS 804.1 Interior trim. Combustible trim in new and existing buildings, excluding handrails and guards, shall not exceed 10 percent of the specific wall or ceiling areas to which it is Attached).
- Materials shall comply with NFPA 286, ASTM E84 or UL 723. (FCNYS 804.1.1/804.1.2)

Ventilation:

- Increased ventilation shall not impede the opening of doors due to increased pressures.
- Any increased ventilation shall not exceed the rated velocity of any installed duct detectors.
- Fire barriers (fire walls fire partitions, fire doors) shall not be defeated to enhance ventilation.

Points of Egress:

- All means of egress must be maintained. Entering the building may be restricted, but all egress means shall be available.
- All locking and latching devices in required doors must be maintained.

Evacuation Plans / Procedures:

- Do your evacuation plans need to be updated to allow for social distancing procedures at meeting areas during fire evacuations and drills?
- If “one way” corridors or stairwells are implemented, it must be clearly explained that all exits are available during an evacuation.

When in doubt, feel free to reach out to your regional OFPC Office for compliance related questions.