

Frequently Asked Questions

These are some “Frequently asked Questions” (FAQs) from the Commerce Fire Department. If you have other questions, please feel free to contact us and we will try to answer them as soon as possible. Thank you for your support!

Q: Do I need smoke alarms?

A: Yes, smoke alarms are required in all residences. Inspection and certification by the building inspector is only required at the time the property is sold/re-financed. With the proven value of smoke alarms in saving lives and protecting property at such a low cost, it’s hard to imagine anyone not having and maintaining them. The Commerce Fire Department will assist any resident in the placement of home smoke alarms.

Q: My smoke alarm is going off, but I don’t see anything-should I bother calling the fire department:

A: Yes, after assuring safe evacuation. Smoke alarms are sensitive to products of combustion in sizes and amounts often not seen by the human eye. That is why they work so well. Never hesitate to call.

Q: How do I check my smoke alarm?

A: Every smoke alarm has a test button, usually in the center of the detector. Press the test button and hold it for a few seconds. If it is working correctly, the alarm will sound and will automatically stop when you release the button. Remember to test your smoke alarm monthly and change the batteries twice a year.

Q: My smoke alarm is chirping, what does that mean?

A: Most modern smoke alarms will chirp to alert you when the batteries are low, you should replace the batteries and test your smoke alarm.

Q: How often should I change the batteries in my smoke alarms?

A: We recommend you change the batteries in your smoke alarms twice a year, an easy way to remember is to change batteries when the time changes.

Q: Will a firefighter ever come into my house and inspect the house for a smoke alarm.

A: Only when invited in by the property owner or tenant.

Q: My CO Detector is going off, but I don't see or smell anything. Should I bother calling the Fire Department?

A: Yes – after assuring a safe evacuation! Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas. CO detectors are very sensitive and designed to alert occupants prior to CO reaching deadly levels. If your detectors go off, call the Fire Department and evacuate the home. Be sure to notify the Fire Department if anyone in the home is experiencing flu-like symptoms. The Fire Department has specialized equipment to detect and measure amounts of CO in your home. Please DO NOT open doors and windows before the Fire Department arrives, because this makes it difficult to determine the cause of any CO that may be present. NEVER hesitate to call us.

Q: What if I smell Gas in my home?

A: You will need to get out of the house and call 9-1-1 for the fire department from the outside of the house or from a neighbor's house. The use of a phone could cause the gas to ignite if you called from inside the house.

Q: What is the ISO fire insurance rating?

A: The Insurance Services Offices, Inc. (ISO) rates jurisdictions on factors related to fire coverage that include water supply, dispatch procedures, and fire resources. Effective November 1, 2016, The Commerce Fire Department's ISO rating is a 3/3X. This applies to all city property as well as property in the East Jackson Fire District.

Q: How do I get a copy of a fire report?

A: For fire reports, call 706-335-2190. Please provide the address of the incident, date, and your name.

Q: Does the Department fill swimming pools for people?

A: No, the Commerce Fire Department doesn't fill swimming pools.

Q: Is outdoor burning allowed in the City of Commerce and the surrounding area?

A: Yes, From October 1st through April 30th outdoor burning is allowed only with a permit from the Georgia Forestry Commission. Permits can be obtained by calling 1-877-OK2-BURN (1-877-652-2876) or visiting www.gfc.state.ga.us/online-permits/index.cfm

Q: Can I burn at night?

A: Only if the fire is for cooking or warming.

Q: Does the fire department rescue cats from trees?

A: No, cats are known to eventually come down from trees for food. The fire department does not respond to those calls because it takes a fire apparatus out of service which may jeopardize the safety of the community.

Q: Does the fire department fill fire extinguishers?

A: The Commerce Fire Department is not equipped to fill fire extinguishers. However, you can find local fire extinguisher businesses in the yellow pages to refill them.

Q: Can the public schedule parties at the fire station?

A: No, We discourage the public from having parties at the fire station due to safety and security reasons. The Commerce Civic Center has venues available and can be reached by telephone at 706-335-6417.