How to Level Up Your Fire Inspections

Don't start from square one

Your time is valuable so don't spend it on reinventing the wheel with your software solution. Instead, partner with a vendor who has deep experience developing best practices for fire departments, and pre-built tools you can configure to meet your needs.

Be flexible to future change

A flexible solution can help you adapt to the changing needs of your department and constituents, not hold you back with rigid systems and legacy technology.

Make the switch to mobile

Mobile devices can improve the speed, quality and consistency of your inspections by introducing safeguards for missing data and allowing access to real-time information historically stored back at the firehouse.

Determine your resource load

Many fire departments struggle to staff their fire prevention activities, often due to outdated and inefficient processes. Modern tools with the latest automation can help improve your productivity, without adding extra staff.

Leverage staff expertise

Your inspectors are on the front lines every day and regularly encounter obstacles to getting their job done. Be sure to tap them for ideas on how to improve.

Consider the citizen experience

Incorporating a self-service portal to pay fees, schedule inspections, check permit statuses and upload documents can reduce errors and create a better experience for your constituents, eliminate backlogs, and result in higher compliance rates.

End the paper chase

Paper-based processes can hinder your productivity, making it difficult to share real-time information. Having a tool that can track all documents and accept uploads online keeps fire staff and property owners in the loop anytime, from anywhere.

Invest in training

Introducing a new tool for your department can create variability across inspectors. Invest in one that comes with robust training to ensure consistency and create better outcomes for property owners.

Automate shift scheduling

Eliminate manual tasks like shift scheduling to save time and resources, and help fire department leaders focus on more important things like developing new fire prevention programs and services.

Avoid long, drawn out procurements

Fire departments don't always have extra time or resources to spend on researching and analyzing new software, and long timelines for setting up new technology can be a major burden. Vendors who offer pre-built tools can speed procurement and get new systems implemented quickly.

Lean on reporting, analysis and insights

With all inspection, permit and plan review data stored in one system, data visualization tools help fire department leaders keep tabs on how they're doing, making it easier to run reports and track progress towards goals.

Rely on one source of truth

As public safety agencies struggle with tight resources, temporary fixes may become permanent and impact how processes evolve. Consolidating data into one system ensures applications, status tracking, and approvals are accurate and available to all stakeholders in real time.

Elevate Your Process

Accela's Civic Application for Fire Prevention is an all-in-one solution with pre-built components that help fire departments meet inspection targets, process permits faster and improve property owner visibility. It streamlines all fire compliance operations with powerful features including back-office data management, workflow automation, mobile integration, and a public-facing self-service portal. For more information on how the solution can get you up and running faster, visit Accela.com/fire.

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