



City of Visalia Fire Department

In receipt of a City of Visalia Fire Department citation?

A Fire Department citation can be either a warning or a monetary citation. Violations can include, but are not limited to:

- Blocked exits or fire extinguisher out of service at a business or multifamily dwelling
- Violation of the California Fire Code, title 19 or the California Building Code
- Illegal burns (burning trash, processed wood, yard waste, bon fires, a fire larger than 3' around or a fire that is creating a nuisance by excessive smoke from wet wood)
- Fireworks
 - *Fireworks violations fall under a different set of guidelines. Please see page two of the document (scroll down).*
- Property Maintenance

If you are in receipt of a citation with a monetary fine, citizens have the following choices:

A) Pay the citation fine

- Citations, and any additional fees, must be paid in-person at the main walk-up counter inside City Hall East, 707 W. Acequia Ave.

B) Appeal the citation

- If a citizen decides they want to appeal their citation, they would:
 1. Call Fire administration at 559-713-4266
 2. Visit Neighborhood Preservation Division offices in-person at 315 E. Acequia Avenue, inside City Hall East between the hours of 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
 3. Pay the \$100 appeal fee (this fee is non-refundable if the appeal is not upheld, the fee is returned if the hearing is successful) and fill out the appeal request form.
 4. Citizens receive notification of the date and time of the hearing by mail at least two weeks prior to the date. Citizens can ask for the hearing to be rescheduled for the following month if they are unable to attend during the assigned time. Citizens may bring legal counsel with them to the hearing.

In receipt of a fireworks citation?

Fireworks citations are issued in Visalia for all dangerous fireworks use, sales, storage and possession.

The violation fee schedule is:

- \$1000 for the first violation
- \$2000 for the second
- \$3000 for the third and subsequent violations within a three year time frame.

If you are in receipt of a fireworks citation, citizens have the following choices:

C) Pay the citation fine

- Citations must be paid in-person at the main walk-up counter inside City Hall East, 707 W. Acequia Ave.

D) Appeal the citation

- If a citizen decides they want to appeal their citation, they have 20 days from the date the citation was issued. To appeal, you would:
 1. Call Fire administration at 559-713-4266
 2. Visit Neighborhood Preservation Division offices in-person at 315 E. Acequia Avenue, inside City Hall East between the hours of 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
 3. Pay the \$100 appeal fee (this fee is non-refundable if the appeal is not upheld, the fee is returned if the hearing is successful) and fill out the appeal request form.
 4. Citizens receive notification of the date and time of the hearing by mail at least two weeks prior to the date. Citizens can ask for the hearing to be rescheduled for the following month if they are unable to attend during the assigned time. Citizens may bring legal counsel with them to the hearing.

Please note, for citations to be issued by Visalia Fire or Police Department's, personnel must be able to reasonably prove that the fireworks came from a certain address or specific person.

In receipt of a City of Visalia Fire Department property maintenance violation?

The purpose of the Property Maintenance Program, [as stated in Chapter 8.56 of the Visalia Municipal Code](#), is to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the people maintaining property or premises in good and appropriate condition; to promote a sound and attractive community appearance; and to enhance the economic value of the community, and each area in it, through the regulation of the maintenance of property or premises.

The Process:

- Property maintenance generally starts with a pre inspection letter being sent to the property owner informing them that a violation may exist on their property.
- Once a property is deemed in violation by an inspector a declaration of public nuisance will be issued to the property owner.
 - A declaration includes a cost recover fee of \$264.05.
- Once a declaration has been issued, the property owner has two weeks to bring the property into compliance with the ordinance.
- If the property is not in compliance within two weeks the property is abated by a City contractor and an additional lien is placed on the property for the amount of abatement.

A declaration may be challenged, and follows the same steps and timeline as challenging an administrative citation, as noted above.

To report violations:

To report a violation, contact the City of Visalia Fire Department Administration at 559-713-4266.

For reporting an illegal burn citizens must call dispatch via 911 so an engine can be dispatched to the incident.

To report the active use of illegal fireworks, citizens must call 9-1-1. If the use has passed, citizens can call Visalia Fire Administration at 559-713-4266 so that their area can be placed on a list of patrols for the next year's 4th of July.