



Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services

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Fire Code Compliance Virtual Inspections – Information for Customers

Background

As of March 16, 2020, DPS-FCC has been using “virtual” platforms to complete live inspections from a remote location. These virtual inspections are a short-term, immediate solution for customers that FCC inspectors can provide to deliver services that otherwise would need to be suspended until full inspection services are once again available. Not all inspections are able to be performed virtually.

Procedures

FCC inspectors can perform virtual inspections over multiple platforms such as Facetime, WhatsApp, Skype, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, GoToMeeting, and more. Here are the general steps for a virtual inspection:

1. The FCC Inspector determines a virtual inspection is possible. The inspector will contact the customer to decide on a platform.
2. The FCC Inspector schedules the date and time for the inspection with the customer.
3. At the scheduled date and time, the customer turns on the video, or otherwise connects with the inspector. The customer should start at the outside of the home or business where the address numbers are visible to verify the location of the inspection.
4. The inspector will direct the customer through the space until the inspection is complete. The inspector will let you know at the end of the virtual inspection if there are items that need correction, items that need visual, in-person inspection in the near future, or if all items are complete and the inspection passes.

Considerations

For best results, please consider the following items:

- Ensure all documentation is up to date. Send any required documents to the inspector by email prior to the inspection.
- Use a smartphone, tablet, or laptop with a camera that is easily portable for the inspection. It should be fully charged and have a wi-fi connection.
- Have any required tools such as a tape measure, flashlight, or dowel rod (for testing smoke alarms) available. If you are unsure what might be needed, discuss this with the inspector beforehand.