What life safety documentation should be ready before surveyors arrive?

THE DIRECT ANSWER

Before Joint Commission surveyors arrive, have ready: a current e-Statement of Conditions with no stale Plans for Improvement, 12 months of fire protection testing and inspection records , ILSM documentation for any active project or deficiency, fire drill records with critiques, emergency power testing logs, and staff who can explain emergency procedures. If any of these is missing, you don't have a documentation problem — you have a program problem.

THE CORE DOCUMENT SET

- e-Statement of Conditions (e-SOC) — current building assessment, all PFIs and SPFIs up to date with realistic timeframes
- Fire alarm, detection, and suppression testing records — 12 months minimum, per NFPA frequencies (quarterly, semiannual, annual as applicable)
- Sprinkler and standpipe inspection records — including any impairments with documented ILSM
- Fire extinguisher inspection and maintenance logs
- Emergency generator testing — weekly/monthly runs plus annual load bank test documentation
- Fire drill records — with documented critiques and corrective actions; additional drills for ILSM areas
- ILSM assessments and daily inspection logs — for every active trigger

HOW SURVEYORS USE YOUR DOCUMENTS

- Surveyors cross-reference. The drill log gets compared against the ILSM log. The e-SOC gets compared against what they see walking the building. The generator test log gets compared against the actual transfer switch.

FIELD QUESTION

How far back should life safety records go?

At least 12 months for testing, inspection, drill, and rounds documentation. Surveyors expect continuous records, not a last-minute binder.

From Healthcare Facility Hub - free, like everything on the site. The full article is at the link below.

Caution: codes, editions, and targets vary by facility and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Figures marked as common practice are facility targets, not code requirements. Confirm against your AHJ and the current code text before acting.