

# REVISED LAWS

# MINNESOTA

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## CHAPTER 36

## PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE

**2365. Classification of buildings**—For the purposes of this chapter, buildings shall be classified as follows:

1. Hotels and other structures two stories high, with ten or more sleeping rooms, where sleeping accommodations are furnished to the public.
2. Such hotels and structures more than two stories high.
3. Tenements, flat buildings, and boarding houses, more than two stories high, accommodating more than twenty persons, whether in one family or more; an attic or mansard-roof floor, when used for sleeping, to be counted as a story.
4. Buildings used as theaters or public halls, and having a seating capacity of over three hundred.
5. Public school buildings, and seminary, academy, and college buildings, more than two stories high.
6. Hospitals and asylums two or more stories high.
7. Prisons, reformatories, workhouses, jails, and other places of penal confinement. (8006)

**2366. Requirements for class one**—For each twenty-five hundred feet of area, or fractional part thereof, covered by a building in class one, there shall be provided an efficient chemical fire extinguisher, conveniently located in a public hallway outside of the sleeping rooms, and always in condition for use, or a one and one-fourth inch inside standpipe, with hose connection, and hose of sufficient length always attached, in such hallway, which standpipe shall be supplied by a sufficient pressure of water. (8007)

**2367. Same—Class two**—Each six thousand feet of area, or fractional part thereof, covered by a building in class two, shall be provided with a one and three-fourths inch inside standpipe, and sufficient one and one-fourth inch hose connected therewith on each floor, and constantly furnished with sufficient water pressure from waterworks or pump which can be put into instant action; or for each such area there shall be a two and one-half inch metallic standpipe, with metallic ladder attached above the first story, located upon the outside of the wall, extending above the roof, and so situated as to be accessible from the roof, and from each story above the first, with valves and male hose connections at every story and on the roof, and female hose connection at base of the pipe, of such size and pattern as to allow connection with the equipment of the local fire department. There shall also be provided for each eighty-five hundred feet of such area, or fractional part thereof, at least one efficient chemical fire extinguisher on each floor containing sleeping apartments. If, for lack of waterworks or steam to operate pumps, the inside standpipe be not practicable, then, in addition to the fire extinguishers, there shall be placed in the hallway on each floor containing sleeping apartments one barrel of water and two pails, labeled "For fire purposes only," for each twenty-five hundred feet of area, or fraction thereof, on such floor. A red light shall be kept burning all night at the head of each stairway above the first floor, and at or near each approach to a stationary fire escape. In each sleeping room above the first floor the following printed notice shall be conspicuously posted: "Exit in case of fire. Upon leaving this room, turn to the (here insert 'right' or 'left') and by passing (here insert distance in feet) you will reach a red light which indicates (here insert 'fire escape' or 'stairway')." (8007)

**2368. Same—Class three**—For each five thousand feet of area, or fraction thereof, covered by a building in class three, there shall be provided one outside standpipe, as described in § 2367, and one non-combustible ladder or stairway for each twenty persons, or fraction thereof, that such building accommodates above the first story. (8007)

**2369. Same—Class four—**Each building in class four shall be provided with a standpipe running to the stage, and with hose always connected, and of length to reach all parts of the stage; also with an efficient chemical fire extinguisher properly located to protect scenery. If, for lack of constant water pressure, the standpipe should be impracticable, the stage shall be provided with two such extinguishers, and at least one barrel of water, with two pails, labeled, "For fire purposes only." The foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply to halls where neither curtains nor scenery are used, but all buildings in class four shall have exits, non-combustible stairways, ladders, fire escapes, and other means of fire protection in such number and of such character and size as may be determined from time to time by the proper local authorities. (8007)

See 1905 c. 319

**2370. Same—Classes five and six—**Buildings in classes five and six shall be provided, when practicable, with an inside or outside standpipe, as required for those in class two. A chemical fire extinguisher shall be provided on each floor above the first, and there shall be exits, non-combustible stairways and ladders and fire escapes, in such number and of such character and size as may be determined from time to time by the proper local authorities. (8007)

**2371. Same—Class seven—**Each building in class seven that is not built of stone, brick, or iron, with non-combustible partitions, and roof practically fireproof, shall have a standpipe and sufficient hose, connected on each floor with constant water pressure, or an efficient chemical fire extinguisher on each floor. (8007)

**2372. Enforcing law—Penalties—**The proprietor and lessee of every building in any of the classes hereinbefore mentioned shall equip the same in the manner prescribed, and every failure so to do shall constitute a misdemeanor. Every firewarden, marshal, chief of fire department, chief of police, and building inspector of an incorporated place, or, where no such officer exists, the town and county boards, shall enforce the provisions of this chapter. Every person who shall fail to comply with any such provision within thirty days after written notice so to do from any such officer shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. All fines collected hereunder shall be turned into the school fund of the county in which the conviction occurs. (8005, 8009)

**2373. Exits from hotels, etc.—Rope fire escapes—**In cities of the first, second, and third classes, every building maintained or held out to be a hotel, or place where sleeping accommodations are furnished to the public, shall be provided with more than one exit from each story directly to the ground; and such exits must always be kept in good repair, free from any obstruction, and ready for immediate use. If any such building in any city be not provided with suitable metal fire escapes on two sides or two ends, or a side and an end, then every outside sleeping apartment shall be equipped with a three-eighth inch hempen rope, plainly visible and securely attached therein, of length and strength sufficient to reach the ground, and to sustain five hundred pounds weight. (8007; '03 c. 301 ss. 1-3, 7)

See 1905 c. 343

**2374. Penalties—**Every person owning, keeping, maintaining, or managing any building of the character mentioned in § 2373 which is not constructed, equipped, and maintained in accordance therewith shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, the minimum punishment whereof shall be a fine of twenty-five dollars, or imprisonment for thirty days. He shall have no lien in any form upon property belonging to or in the possession of any lodger or boarder therein, and shall not be entitled to maintain any action for board, lodging, or accommodations. ('03 c. 301 ss. 4-6)