

## ID store gets fire warning

TWIN FALLS — City officials have warned the Idaho Department Store owners that the store on the Mall will have to be brought up to fire code standards or it may be shut down.

According to Mrs. Harold Texido, wife of the Idaho Falls owner of the building, the store will be brought up to code rather than closed.

The warning on fire deficiencies at the store may be only the first of a number of warnings to downtown businessmen whose structures do not meet the state-enforced fire code.

City manager Jean Milar said a letter citing deficiencies at the ID Store was sent in mid-May. A meeting to discuss the problems was held between store representatives and city fire and building officials, Milar said.

"If the ID ignores the letter or doesn't do anything, we are obligated by the requirements of the code to force a closure," Milar added, "but this is all done within reasonable (time) limits."

According to fire Marshall Fred Higgins, the deficiencies at the ID Store include the lack of double stairways in both the basement and from the second floor. The store also lacks a basement sprinkler system, Higgins said.

He added that the store owners would have the option of either enclosing all stairways in the building or putting in a sprinkler system throughout the entire structure.

"The ID Store having just one stairway up into their second floor and enclosing the building such as they did to improve it and dress up the Mall didn't help any as far as fire department access to the second floor and getting people out of the building," Higgins said.

He said no time deadline has been imposed for the upgrading at the store. Mrs. Texido said no estimates on the costs of the repairs to be made have been obtained.

"It's something that has to be done to assure the safety of the people on the top floor," she said, "so we're willing to go along."

Higgins said there are other buildings to be brought to code, but he declined to name them.

"We will try to get to them as soon as we can, but this is going to take time," Higgins said.

He said he would rather work on a personal basis with building owners than release the sites of the buildings and do "any flock shooting so to speak" in the press.

Clipped By:



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