

Michael Thomas

Assistant Professor, California State University, Los Angeles

NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

Fire Prevention Inspections of Legal and Illegal Cannabis Occupancies: A Comparative Study

The legalization of cannabis has led to an increase in the number of cannabis occupancies, both legal and illegal. These occupancies pose a significant fire risk due to the cultivation, processing, and storage of large quantities of cannabis and related materials. Fire prevention inspections are critical in identifying and mitigating these risks, but there is limited research on the effectiveness of inspections in legal and illegal cannabis occupancies. This study aims to compare the fire prevention inspection practices and outcomes of legal and illegal cannabis occupancies. The research will employ a mixed-methods approach, including a survey of fire prevention officials, on-site inspections of cannabis occupancies, and analysis of fire incident data. The survey will collect information on the frequency and scope of fire prevention inspections in legal and illegal cannabis occupancies, as well as the resources and training available to fire prevention officials. The on-site inspections will assess the fire safety measures and hazards in a sample of legal and illegal cannabis occupancies. Finally, the analysis of fire incident data will compare the frequency and severity of fires in legal and illegal cannabis occupancies before and after inspections. The study's findings will provide insights into the effectiveness of fire prevention inspections in mitigating fire risks in legal and illegal cannabis occupancies. The results will

inform fire prevention policies and practices to ensure the safety of these occupancies and their surrounding communities.

Presentation Theme: Cannabis Occupancy Fire Prevention Inspections.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: Los Angeles Fire Department.