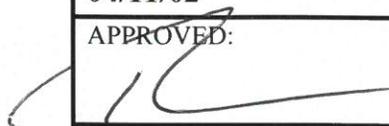




**Fire Chiefs Association** of **Santa Cruz County**  
**FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS SECTION**

<b>FIRE PREVENTION STANDARDS</b>	DATE: <b>04/11/02</b>	NUMBER: <b>FP0-010</b>
	APPROVED: 	REVISED: <b>11-6-2024</b>
	TITLE: <b>Large Family Day Cares (9-14 kids)</b>	

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this standard is to assist the applicant with the applicable Fire and Life Safety regulations. The California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing requests fire agencies to complete a required Fire Clearance Inspection (form #STD 850) to complete the process for Large Family Day Care (LFDC) homes.

**INSPECTION REQUESTS AND FEES:**

Upon receipt of a request from a prospective licensee of a child day care facility, as defined in Health & Safety Code §1596.750, the local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) may conduct a pre-inspection of the facility. At the time of the pre-inspection, the AHJ shall notify in writing of the specific fire safety regulations which shall be enforced in order to obtain fire clearance approval. The AHJ shall complete the fire clearance inspection within 30 days of the request for the final inspection, or as of the date the prospective facility requests the final pre-licensure inspection by the Department of Social Services, whichever is later.

Prior to an inspection, the applicant must contact the AHJ and request an inspection. Fire inspection fees must be in accordance with the local AHJ's fee schedule prior to final approval and submittance of the Fire and Life Safety form.

**BUILDING REQUIREMENTS:**

- Day cares shall not be permitted in garages. The California Building Code classifies large Family Day Care's as R-3 occupancies. The California Building Code classifies garages as U occupancies. At no time shall a day care be permitted in a group U occupancy.
- Day care rooms shall be located on the first floor only, unless the building is equipped with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system.
- Barricades shall be installed at the bottom of stairwells to keep children off the second floor. Use of the second floor is prohibited for Large Family Day Care homes.  
 EXCEPTION: In concrete, fire-resistive buildings with an outside stairway or a building that has an outside stairway and an automatic sprinkler system.

- Every sleeping room shall have at least one operable window or door approved for emergency escape or rescue. The window shall have a minimum net clear openable area of 5.7 square feet. The minimum net clear openable height dimension shall be 24 inches. The minimum net clear openable width dimension shall be 20 inches. When windows are provided as a means of escape or rescue, they shall have a finished sill height of not more than 44 inches above the floor.
- All chimneys attached to any appliance or fireplace that burns solid fuel shall be equipped with an approved spark arrester.
  - The net free area of the spark arrester shall be not less than four times the net free area of the outlet of the chimney flue it serves.
  - The spark arrester screen shall have heat and corrosion resistance equivalent to 12-gauge wire, 19-gauge galvanized steel or 24-gauge stainless steel.
  - Openings shall not permit the passage of spheres having a diameter larger than 1/2 inch nor block the passage of spheres having a diameter of less than 3/8 inch.
  - The spark arrester shall be accessible for cleaning and the screen or chimney cap shall be removable to allow for cleaning of the chimney flue.
- All unenclosed gas-fired water heaters and furnaces that are within the area(s) used for the day care shall be protected in a way as to prevent children from making contact with the appliance.
- Protect all fireplaces, wood stove/inserts and heaters that are within the area(s) used for the day care with barricades to prevent children from being burned.
- Water heaters shall be fitted with a pressure relief valve and a discharge pipe shall be installed and plumbed (air gapped to a floor sink, or to the exterior of the structure) in accordance with the building, mechanical and plumbing code.

**PREMISE IDENTIFICATION:**

Address numbers shall be placed on all buildings in such a position that they are plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property. Numbers shall contrast with their background and shall be a minimum of 4" inches in height.

**EXITS:**

Exit definition: that portion of a means of egress system between the exit access and the exit discharge or public way. Exit components include exterior exit doors at the level of exit discharge, interior exit stairways, interior exit ramps, exit passageways, exterior exit stairways and exterior exit ramps and horizontal exits.

- Every story or basement of a large family day-care shall be provided with two exits which are remotely located from each other. Every required exit shall be of a size to permit the installation of a door not less than 32 inches in clear width and not less than 6 feet 8 inches in height. A manually operated horizontal sliding door may be used as one of the two required exits.

- Where basements are used for day-care purposes, one of the two required exits shall provide access directly to the exterior without entering the first story. The second exit from the basement may either pass through the story above or exit directly to the exterior.
- Rooms used for day-care purpose shall not be located above the first story.

Exception: Buildings equipped with an automatic sprinkler system throughout and which have at least one of the required exits providing access directly to the exterior. NFPA 13R may be used in large family day-care homes. The sprinkler omissions of NFPA 13R shall not apply unless approved by the enforcing agency.

Exit doors, including manually operated horizontal sliding doors, shall be openable from the inside without use of a key or any special knowledge or effort.

- Use of a key-operated dead bolt is **PROHIBITED**.
- Dead bolts will be permitted if they are interconnected with the doorknob in such a manner that turning the doorknob from the egress side will simultaneously unlock the dead bolt in a single operation.
- Exiting through a garage is **PROHIBITED**.
- Chains, slide bolts, special locking devices, dead bolts, and doorknobs that don't automatically release the lock when turned are **PROHIBITED**.
- Exits that pass through a kitchen are permissible.

**SMOKE ALARMS:**

Large Family Day Care homes shall be equipped with State Fire Marshal approved and listed single-station residential-type smoke alarms. Smoke alarms shall be located in rooms used for sleeping purposes and at a point centrally located in the corridor or area giving access to each separate sleeping area.

**CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS:**

Group R occupancies located in a building with a fossil fuel-burning heater or appliance, fireplace or an attached garage shall have single station carbon monoxide alarms installed. Carbon monoxide alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated or plug-in type with battery back-up.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:**

Large Family Day Care homes shall be equipped with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum of 2A:10B:C rating.

- The fire extinguisher shall be mounted in an accessible location not less than 42" for more than 60" from finished floor.
- The AHJ shall determine the location of the fire extinguisher.

- The fire extinguisher must be new (maintain receipt) **OR** serviced within the last 12 months by a licensed company.

**FIRE ALARM:**

- Every large family day-care home shall be provided with at least one manual device at a location approved by the authority having jurisdiction. Such device shall actuate a fire alarm signal, which shall be audible throughout the facility at a minimum level of 15db above ambient noise level. These devices need not be interconnected to any other fire alarm device, have a control panel of be electrically supervised or provided with emergency power. Such devices shall be attached to the structure and may be of any type acceptable to the AHJ, provided that such devices are distinctive in tone and are audible throughout the structure.

**EMERGENCY EXIT PLANS AND FIRE DRILLS:**

- Provide an emergency exit plan. The AHJ shall determine placement. Include the emergency phone numbers and procedures
- Conduct monthly fire drills.
- Maintain records of dates, time, and person conducting the drill.

**GENERAL STORAGE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Storage within the residence shall be orderly.
- Combustibles shall not be stored in exit enclosures.
- Combustible materials shall not be placed or stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms.
- Flammable and combustible liquids in quantities of 10 gallons or more, shall be stored in approved cabinet. Flammable and combustible liquids not exceeding 10 galls shall be stored in approved containers within an unconditioned space, such as the garage.

**Miscellaneous:**

- The facility must be equipped with some means of notifying emergency services without delay. Example: a properly operating telephone or central station fire alarm system
- Provide seismic restraints for water heaters.
- Maintain electrical outlet covers.
- Ensure that all State and Local Licensing requirements are met and maintained. (i.e., latches on cabinets containing hazardous materials, emergency phone numbers for the poison control center, hospital, doctor etc.)
- For home access, follow local AHJ in regards to entry i.e.: Knox Box etc.

***These requirements may not address every possible code or situation. If you should have any questions, please contact your local Authority Having Jurisdiction***



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<b>FIRE PREVENTION STANDARDS</b>	DATE: <b>04/11/02</b>	NUMBER: <b>FPO-000</b>
	APPROVED:	REVISED: <b>11/19/2024</b>
	TITLE: <b>Guide for Adopting Standards</b>	

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Standard is to familiarize members with the process for adopting or updating Fire Prevention Standards. As codes, ordinances and technology evolve, it is essential to update standards to remain relevant and effective.

**THE PROCESS:**

Any member may propose an item for consideration. The Fire Chiefs’ Association may also request the development or update of a standard. The development of a standard is a collaborative, and all input and participation is encouraged.

Items brought proposed at the regular Fire Prevention Officers (FPO) meetings may be deferred to a sub-committee for further action.

The committee evaluates the proposal, leading to one of two outcomes:

- No Action: A report with justification for no action will be presented at the next FPO meeting
- Standard Development/Update: If action is deemed necessary, the committee will work on the standard. The committee may seek further guidance from the Fire Chiefs’ Association and/or the FPO Association.

Once the draft document is complete, it is then presented to the FPO Association for review and input. Feedback may lead to further refinement before the draft is finalized. The final draft is voted on according to the FPO Association’s by-laws

The draft standard is submitted to the Fire Chiefs’ Association via their FPO liaison, for review and inclusion in the next meeting agenda. The Fire Chiefs’ Association may ratify, modify or reject the standard with recommendations for further work. A rejected standard may be revised and re-submitted through the process.

Each standard will have an initial implementation date. Modifications shall require an updated revised date.

All final standards shall be signed by the current president of the Fire Chiefs Association. The original shall be scanned and downloaded to the FPO Dropbox and available to all member agencies. Agencies are

encouraged to publish and make standards available to the public via their own websites. The Fire Chiefs Association shall publish the final standard on their website.

All standards shall use this format. Any changes to this format shall be approved by the Fire Chiefs' Association.