



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

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

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this standard is to acquaint the applicant with the applicable State Fire Marshal Fire and Life Safety regulations. These regulations were written to protect the day care occupants from fire and other emergencies. The Department of Social Services and Human Resources Agency requests fire agencies to complete a required Fire Clearance Inspection (form #STD 850) to complete the process for Large Family Day Care Homes.

DEFINITIONS:

- CBC** – California Building Code
- CFC** – California Fire Code
- CPC** – California Plumbing Code
- UMC** – Uniform Mechanical Code
- UFC** – Uniform Fire Code

First Floor shall be designated as the floor used for residential occupancy nearest the street level which provides primary access to the building. *CBC §310.15.5*

Large Family Day Care is a provider’s own home licensed to provide day care for periods less than 24 hours per day for nine to 14 persons, including children under the age of 10 who reside at the home. *CBC §205*

Large Family Day Care [SFM] homes shall be considered as single family residences for the purposes of the State Building Standards Code and local building and fire codes, except with respect to any additional standards specifically designed to promote the fire and life safety of the children in these homes, adopted by the state fire marshal. *CBC §310.15.1(d)*

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 fire enforcement agency, shall conduct a pre-inspection of the facility. At the time of the pre-inspection, the fire enforcement agency shall notify in writing of the

specific fire safety regulations which shall be enforced in order to obtain fire clearance approval. A fee of not more than fifty dollars (\$50) may be charged for the pre-inspection.

The fire enforcing agency 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, which ever is later.

Prior to an inspection, the applicant must contact the Fire Prevention Division and request an inspection. Upon receipt of approval (Fire Clearance Granted), a \$50.00 inspection fee must be paid **NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING BILLING STATEMENT. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours notice when requesting an inspection.**

DETERMINATION OF OCCUPANT LOAD:

An occupant load must be determined to distinguish a small family day care from a large family day care. The occupant load is determined by dividing the square footage of the areas accessible to the children by 35. (example: 310 square feet divided by 35 equals 8.8 or 8 persons; 500 square feet divided by 35 equals 14 persons) Some portions of the home may be considered as accessory uses and will not be used in determining the occupant load.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION 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.**

A one-hour occupancy separation between the day-care and garage is required when the garage is attached. The separation may be limited to the installation of materials approved for one-hour construction on the garage side and a self-closing, tight fitting solid wood door 1-3/8 inches in thickness, or a self-closing, tight fitting door having a fire-protection rating of not less than 20 minutes is permitted in lieu of one-hour fire assembly. *CBC §302.4*

Exception: *Unless a garage conversion has been done by a building permit issued by the local building department, and conforms to all state and local regulations related to a Group R- Division 3 occupancy.*

- Day care rooms shall be located on the first floor only, unless the building is equipped with an approved fire sprinkler system. *CBC §1025*
- 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 or escape

or rescue, they shall have a finished sill height of not more than 44 inches above the floor.

CBC §310.4

- All chimneys attached to any appliance or fireplace that burns solid fuel shall be equipped with an approved spark arrester. *CBC §3102.3.8a*
- 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. *CBC §310.12*
- 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. *CBC §310.12*
- Water heaters shall be fitted with a pressure relief valve and a discharge pipe shall be installed and plumbed (airgapped to a floor sink, or to the exterior of the structure) in accordance with the building, mechanical and plumbing code.
CMC§1004.2.1; CMC§1004.2.2; CBC §2901; CPC §505.3; CPC §608.4; CPC§608.5

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. *CFC §901.4.4*

EXITS:

An EXIT is a continuous and unobstructed means of egress to a public way and shall include gates.

CBC §1003.3.2; CBC §1005.1

Every story or basement shall be provided with two exits, which are remotely located from each other.

- Exit doorways shall be not less than 32" in clear width and not less than 6' 8" in height. *CBC §1003.3.1.3*
- A manually operated horizontal sliding door meeting the above-referenced requirements may be used as one of the required exits when serving an occupant load of 14 or less. *CBC §1003.3.1.2*
- **All exit doors shall be opened from the inside without the use of a key, special knowledge, or effort.** *CBC §1003.3.1.8*
 - A one-handed single turn of the knob must release the latch and lock bolts.
 - Use of a key-operated dead bolt is **PROHIBITED.** *CBC §1003.3.1.8*
 - Exiting through a garage is **PROHIBITED.** *CBC §1004.2.2*
 - Chains, slide bolts, special locking devices, dead bolts, and doorknobs that don't automatically release the lock when turned are **PROHIBITED.** *CBC §1003.3.1.8*
 - Exits that pass through a kitchen are permissible. *CBC §1004.2.2*

Gates used as a component in a means of egress system shall conform to the requirements of Exit.

CBC §1003.3.2.2

SMOKE DETECTORS:

Large Family Day Care homes shall be equipped with State Fire Marshal approved and listed single-station residential-type smoke detectors. Smoke detectors 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. *CBC §310.9; CBC §310.15.2*

All smoke detectors shall be installed and maintained as per manufacturer’s specifications.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

Large Family Day Care homes shall be equipped with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum of 2A10B:C rating. *CFC §1002.1; CBC §310.15.3*

- The fire extinguisher shall be mounted in an accessible location not less than 42” for more than 60” from finished floor.
- The enforcement authority 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 concern.

FIRE ALARM:

Every large family day care home shall provide and maintain a device or devices suitable for sounding a fire alarm. Such device or devices shall be attached to the structure and may be of any type acceptable to the enforcing agent, provided they are distinctive in tone and are audible throughout the structure. *CBC §310.15.4*

- It is recommended that a battery-operated smoke detector be mounted on the wall, three (3) to five (5) feet from the floor. This smoke detector will be utilized as a fire alarm. (Location to be determined by the enforcement authority.)

EMERGENCY EXIT PLANS AND FIRE DRILLS:

- Provide an emergency exit plan. The enforcement authority shall determine placement. Include the emergency phone numbers and procedures. *Titles 19 & 22 – CCR; UFC §1303.4.1*
- Conduct monthly fire drills. *Titles 19 & 22 – CCR; UFC §1303.6.1*
- Maintain records of dates, time, and person conducting the drill. *UFC §1303.6.4*

GENERAL STORAGE REQUIREMENTS:

- Storage within the residence shall be orderly. *CFC §1103.3.2.1*
- Combustibles shall not be stored in exit enclosures. *CFC §1103.3.2.3*
- Combustible materials shall not be placed or stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms. *CFC §1103.3.2.4*

- Flammable and combustible liquids in quantities of 10 gallons or more shall be stored in an approved cabinet. Flammable and combustible liquids not exceeding 10 gallons shall be stored in approved containers within the garage. *CFC §7902.5.8*

MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS

- The facility must be equipped with some means of notifying the fire department without delay. *Example: A properly operating telephone or central station fire alarm system. CFC §1302.2*
- Provide Seismic Restraints for water heaters. *UMC §308.1*
- Maintain electrical outlet covers. *CFC§8504*
- Insure 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, ambulance, police and fire)

MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

- Some homes may be equipped with GFCI (ground fault circuit interruption) plugs. These plugs should be tested monthly to insure proper operation. If a home is not equipped with GFCI's, it is highly recommended that they be upgraded in those areas required to have GFCI's installed. Only a California Licensed Electrical Contractor shall be used to insure that your home can be upgraded, and that the circuit is properly installed.

These requirements may not address every possible code or situation. If you should have any questions, please contact your Fire Prevention Bureau.