



CITY OF RIVERSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN: 2022-032

APPROVED BY: C. Kodat, Fire Marshal, 1/1/2023

LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE REQUIREMENTS R-3 OCCUPANCY

Definition:

Home licensed to provide day care less than 24 hours per day for fourteen (14) or fewer children, in the providers own home. 2022 California Fire Code (CFC), California Building Code (CBC) and California Residential Code (CRC).

Smoke Alarms:

Install single station smoke alarms in each room used for sleeping purposes and on the ceiling or wall outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms. In multi-level dwellings and dwellings with basements, a detector shall be installed on each story and in the basement. CFC 907.2.10.2

Manual Fire Alarm Box:

Every large family day care home shall be provided with at least one manual fire alarm box at a location approved by the Fire Inspector. This device shall activate a fire alarm signal, which shall be audible throughout the facility at a minimum level of 15 db above ambient noise level. These devices need not be interconnected to any other fire alarm device, have a control panel, or be electrically supervised or provided with emergency power. Such device(s) shall be attached to the structure and must be a device that is listed and approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. CFC 907.2.6.5

Carbon Monoxide Alarms:

Carbon monoxide alarms in dwelling units shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's published instructions in the following locations: CRC R315.3

- Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
- On every occupiable level of a dwelling unit, including basements.
- Where a fueled-burning appliance is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed with the bedroom.

Fire Drills:

A fire drill shall be conducted at least once every 6 months and a record maintained and available onsite. Health & Safety Code § 1597.54.

Fire Extinguishers:

- Provide one (1) 2A:10BC type fire extinguisher, mounted three and one-half to five feet from the floor and located near the kitchen area. Extinguisher(s) shall be serviced yearly, when pressure is low, and/or after use. CFC 906 and CBC 455.4
- Extinguisher must be accessible.

Exits:

Every story or basement of a large family day care home 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. 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. CBC 1006.2.2.7

Rooms used for day care purposes shall not be located above the first story. CBC 1006.2.2.7

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 NFPA13R shall not apply unless approved by the enforcing agency.

Additional Areas of Concern:

- Storage of combustibles in water heater closets (including accumulation of lint and spider webs) is not permitted. CFC 305.1
- Electrical extension cords are not to be used. Cords on appliances will be checked. CFC 603.6
- Weeds, large piles of debris, and trash shall be cleared away. CFC 304.1.1 & 304.1.2
- Properly store flammable or combustible liquids in safety cans away from sources of ignition, i.e., gasoline next to water heater. CFC Chapter 57
- A one-hour separation between the day care area and the garage is required. The separation shall be a self-closing and self-latching, 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 twenty (20) minutes. CBC 406.3.2.1
- Every unenclosed gas-fired water heater or furnace which is within the area used for childcare shall be protected in such a way as to prevent children from making contact with those appliances, does not apply to kitchen stoves or ovens. CBC 455.7