



# SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

1315 Dell Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008 | (408) 378-4010 | SCCFD.org

## STANDARD DETAILS & SPECIFICATIONS

SUBJECT: Large Family Day Care Homes

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## SCOPE

The Office of the California State Fire Marshal has adopted regulations for large family day care homes. These regulations were written to protect the day care occupants in case of fire or other life-threatening emergencies. The local Fire Department is required to inspect the building in order to ensure that these regulations are being followed. This information is a guideline designed to assist individuals in preparation for an inspection. This guideline includes some of the common issues found during the inspection process.

## AUTHORITY

Title 19 (CCR), 2022 California Fire Code (CFC), 2022 California Building Code (CBC), 2022 California Residential Code (CRC), and the California Health and Safety Code (H&SC).

## DEFINITIONS

**Exit**: Continuous unobstructed means of egress to a public way and includes gates.

**Large Family Day Care**: Provider's own home licensed to provide day care for nine to fourteen persons, less than twenty-four hours per day. This would include children under the age of ten who reside at the providers' home.

## REQUIREMENTS

### I. General

- A. An approved number or address must be posted on the building in such a position as to be plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property. Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. Each character shall be not less than 4 inches high with a minimum stroke width of ½ inch. [CFC §505.1]



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- B. Yards shall be maintained to prevent the accumulation of trash, refuse, dead vegetation, weeds, and/or any other combustible materials. [CFC §304.1]
- C. Chimneys attached to any appliance or fireplace that burns a solid fuel shall be equipped with an approved spark arrester. [CFC §605.3/CRC §R1003.9.1]

## II. Fees and Permit Requirements

- A. The provider must have a current license issued by the State of California. In addition to the license issued by the state, each local jurisdiction will have its own permitting and licensing requirements.
- B. Please contact your local fire prevention office to determine the fees applicable to conduct and annual inspection and the permitting process.
- C. Issued permits shall be kept on the premises designated therein at all times and shall be readily available for inspection by the fire code official. [CFC §105.3.5]

## III. Building Construction

- A. Day care operations shall not be permitted in garage or patio area(s). *[Exception: The conversion has been performed under permit and the space meets all applicable state and local regulations.]*
- B. A one-hour separation between the day care area and the garage is required. The separation may be limited to the installation of materials approved for one-hour fire resistive 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 twenty (20) minutes. [CBC §406.3.2.1]
- C. Day care rooms shall be permitted on the first floor only. *[Exception: Buildings equipped with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system throughout].* [CBC §1006.2.2.7]
- D. Emergency escape and rescue openings and any exit doors shall be maintained free of any obstructions and shall be operational from inside the room without the use of keys or tools. *[Note: Windows maximum height from the floor. Emergency and rescue openings shall have the bottom of the clear opening not greater than forty-four (44) inches from the floor].* [CBC §1031.2.1 and §1031.3.3]



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## IV. Electrical

- A. Extension cords shall not be used in place of permanent wiring and shall be used only with portable appliances. [CFC §603.6]
- B. Extension cords shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle, power tap or multiplug adapter and, except for approved multiplug extension cords, shall serve only one portable appliance. [CFC §605.5.1]

## V. Exits

- A. Every story or basement shall be provided with two (2) exits that are remotely located from each other. A horizontal sliding door may be used as one of the required exits. *(Note: Each exit shall be a minimum of thirty- two (32) inches in width and six feet eight inches (80") in height.)* [CFC §106.2.2.7]
- B. All exit doors shall be openable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. *(Note: Dead bolts will be permitted if they are interconnected with the doorknob in such a manner that turning the doorknob will simultaneously unlock the dead bolt in a single operation.)* [Title 24 pt 2, section 2-3303(B)(1) §1006.2.2.7]
- C. Obstructions are not permitted in aisles, corridors, stairways, and exits.
- D. Side gates that are part of the exit path shall be provided with single operation hardware. An example is a string with a handle (at children's level) that is attached to the normal gate latch.
- E. A means of exit shall not pass through kitchens, storerooms, closets or spaces used for similar purposes. [CBC §1016.2(5)]

## VI. General Safety

- A. Flammable and combustible liquids in quantities in excess of ten (10) gallons shall be stored in a flammable liquid locker or cabinet. Flammable liquids that do not exceed ten gallons shall be stored in approved containers within the garage. [CFC §5704.3.4.4]
- B. All Hazardous Materials shall be stored in an area inaccessible to children.
- C. The heating system shall be capable of maintaining a temperature of sixty-eight (68) degrees Fahrenheit. [CBC §1204.1].



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- D. The water heater will have a temperature pressure relief valve installed. [CPC §608.3]
- E. A thirty-six (36) inch clearance shall be maintained around any heat producing equipment or appliances. [CFC §305.1]
- F. Gas water heaters, if located within the garage, shall be eighteen (18) inches above the level of the floor. [CPC §508.14]
- G. Water heaters shall be seismically secured. [HSC §19211]
- H. An emergency evacuation plan shall be developed, reviewed and posted on site. [CFC §404.2.1]
- I. Fire drills shall be conducted every six (6) months and the records shall be maintained on site and available for review. [CFC §405.3]

## **VII. Fire Protection Systems and Equipment**

- A. A portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 2A10BC rating shall be mounted in an accessible location no higher than five (5) feet from the floor. The fire extinguisher is required to be visually inspected on a monthly basis. The fire extinguisher shall be serviced annually by a State Fire Marshal-licensed concern and bear a current service tag. [CBC §907.2.11.2 and CFC §906]
- B. A smoke detector shall be located in each sleeping room and at a point centrally located in the corridor or area giving access to each separate sleeping area. When the dwelling unit has more than one story, and in dwellings with basements, a smoke alarm shall be located on each story and basement. [CFC §907.2.11.2(3)]
- C. Smoke detectors shall be tested monthly. Battery operated detectors must have batteries replaced as needed, not to exceed a period of one (1) year. Smoke detectors shall be installed per manufacturer's installation guidelines and the smoke detector shall not be in service for a period of time to exceed ten (10) years from the date of manufacture.
- D. In addition to the smoke detector requirement(s), every large family day care facility shall provide and maintain a device(s) suitable for sounding a fire alarm.
- E. Such devices shall be attached to the structure and be easily accessible and unobstructed. The tone and audibility of the device shall be distinctive and heard throughout the structure. [CFC §907.2.11.2]



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F. Carbon monoxide detection shall be installed in dwelling units in the following locations [CFC §915.2.1]:

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

Examples of these devices include the following:

\*Manually operated alarm or bell or horn

## Attachment C Fire Alarm Configurations



Where the manual initiating device and/or the notification device is powered by the home's 120V electrical wiring, the connection shall be permitted, inspected, and approved by the local building department. Permits may not be needed where the devices are supplied by low-voltage wiring – verify construction, permit, and inspection requirements with the building department prior to installation.



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## Attachment E Business Owner Pre-inspection Checklist

Use this checklist in conjunction with Guideline F-07 to prepare your large family daycare for a fire-clearance inspection by OCFA. As the design and use of individual homes can vary, this checklist is not all-inclusive and other requirements that are not included herein may apply.

### GENERAL

- ☐ Building modifications have been approved by the building department
- ☐ Garage is not used for daycare unless approved as a living space by the building department
- ☐ Home has minimum 4" high address numbers clearly visible from the street

### DETECTORS/ALARMS

- ☐ Smoke alarms installed and functional
- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms installed and functional
- ☐ Fire alarm installed and audible throughout the home

### EXITING

- ☐ Two exit paths from the daycare area to the street are provided
- ☐ All exit doors have minimum 32" clear opening width
- ☐ Single action hardware is installed on all exit doors and gates
- ☐ Deadbolts open in tandem with the primary door knob
- ☐ Keys are not required to open the exit doors/gates in the direction of exit travel
- ☐ Exit paths are clear of obstructions
- ☐ Basements and sleeping rooms have emergency escape/rescue openings
- ☐ Emergency escape/rescue openings lead to the public way and are accessible to firefighters
- ☐ Bars/grills over emergency escape/rescue openings are openable from the inside

### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- ☐ 2A:10B:C fire extinguisher has been provided
- ☐ Extinguisher is new or has been serviced in the last year
- ☐ Extinguisher is mounted to the wall in a visible and accessible location

### FIRE SAFETY

- ☐ Fire places and gas-fire water heaters are protected from contact by children
- ☐ No combustibles are stored near water heaters or other sources of ignition
- ☐ Door between the dwelling and garage is in good condition
- ☐ Door between the dwelling and garage is self-closing and latching
- ☐ Door between the dwelling and garage is of proper type
- ☐ There are no dog-doors, windows, or other openings between the garage and dwelling