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Large Family Daycare Guideline

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Purpose
This information bulletin has been developed to assist applicants, architects, and contractors in determining the minimum requirements for a large family day care.

Scope
This bulletin is intended to ensure compliance with the appropriate requirements for a large family day care which are found in the California Code of Regulations CCR, Title 19, as well as the 2022 California Fire Code (CFC) and 2022 California Building Code (CBC). Plans not conforming to the requirements listed herein will be returned as incomplete.

Occupancy Classifications
Every large-family day care home shall comply with the provisions for Group R-3 occupancies. CBC 455.

Submittal Requirements
Site and floor plans shall be submitted to the Perris Fire Marshal's Office for review, along with the Form STD-850 from Community Care Licensing, at the time of final fire inspection request. The plans must include the building address, occupancy classification of large family day care, and the location of smoke detectors, fire alarms, exit doors and gates.

Provide a detailed letter identifying all intended use and operations of the facility. Include room locations for children.

Provide a current copy of the city or county home occupancy business license/permit at the time of requesting a fire safety inspection.

Use this guideline to ensure that your plans have at least the minimum amount of information required for a review. It may be necessary to provide additional information beyond what is requested in this guideline depending on the project.

Codes and Standards

1. **Addressing:**
   Address numbers shall be posted on the building and shall be visible from the street. Said numbers shall contrast with their background. CFC 505.1

2. **Electrical:**
   Identified electrical hazards shall be abated. Identified hazardous electrical conditions in permanent wiring shall be brought to the attention of the code official responsible for enforcement of the California Electrical Code. Electrical wiring, devices, appliances and other equipment that is modified or damaged and constitutes an electrical shock or fire hazard shall not be used. CFC 603.1

3. Fire Alarms:

Every large family day-care home shall be provided with at least one manual fire alarm box at a location approved by the enforcing agency. Such device shall actuate 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 or devices 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

4. Smoke Alarms:

a. Large-family day care homes shall be equipped with State Fire Marshal approved and listed single-station residential-type smoke alarms. CBC 455.3

b. Where more than one smoke alarm is required, the smoke alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms. CFC 907.2.11.5

c. Locations: CFC 907.2.11.2

1. On ceilings or walls outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.

2. In each room used for sleeping purposes.

3. In each story within a dwelling unit, including basements but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.

5. Carbon Monoxide Alarms

CFC 907.2.11 requires Group R occupancies located in a building containing a fuel-burning appliance or a building that has an attached garage shall be equipped with single station carbon monoxide alarms. The carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with UL 2034 and shall be installed and maintained in accordance with NFPA 720 and the manufacturer's instructions.

Exception: Sleeping units or dwelling units that do not themselves contain a fuel-burning appliance or have an attached garage, but that are located in a building with a fuel-burning appliance or an attached garage, need not be provided with single station carbon monoxide alarms provided that:

1. The sleeping unit or dwelling unit is located more than one story above or below any story that contains a fuel-burning appliance or an attached garage; and

2. The sleeping unit or dwelling unit is not connected by duct work or ventilation shafts to any room containing a fuel-burning appliance or to an attached garage; and
3. The building is equipped with a common area carbon monoxide detection system that includes all enclosed common area spaces.

6. Fire Extinguisher:

a. Large-family day care homes shall be equipped with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 2-A 10-BC rating. CBC 455.4

b. Portable fire extinguishers having a gross weight not exceeding 40-pounds shall be installed so that its top is not more than 5-feet above the floor. CFC 906.9.1

c. Fire extinguishers shall be serviced on an annual basis. CCR, Title 19, Sec 575.1

7. Room Locations:

a. Rooms used for day care purposes shall not be located above the first story in accordance with 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 NFPA 13R shall not apply unless approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

b. The garage of a home is not part of the Dwelling Unit, therefore, shall not be used for day care purposes. CBC Definitions and occupancy use/classification.

8. Garage Separation:

Door openings between a private garage and the dwelling unit shall be equipped with either solid wood doors or solid or honeycomb core steel doors not less than 1 3/8 inches in thickness or doors in compliance with CBC 716.2.2.1 with a fire protection rating of not less than 20 minutes. The integrity of the wall between the dwelling and the garage shall be maintained and be free of penetrations. Doors shall be self-closing and self-latching. CBC 406.3.4 2

9. Exiting:

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.

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. 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 NFPA 13R shall not apply unless approved by the enforcing agency.

Egress doors, including manually operated horizontal sliding doors, shall be readily openable from the inside without use of a key or special knowledge or effort. CBC 1010.1.9

10. Special Hazards:

Every unenclosed gas-fired water heater or furnace which is within the area used for child care in a large-family day care home shall be protected in such a way as to prevent children from making contact with those appliances. CBC 455.7

Exception: This does not apply to kitchen stoves or ovens.

11. Ignition Sources:

Clearance between ignition sources, such as luminaries, heaters, flame-producing devices and combustible materials shall be maintained in an approved manner. CFC 305.1