



CODE SUMMARY

LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE HOME

A code summary is a compilation of code sections related to a specific topic and does not contain any interpretations or District standards. This code summary lists sections of code pertaining to Large Family Day Care Homes and puts them into simple, easy to understand language. The bold headings are intended to be straightforward and uncomplicated. Under each heading you will find the correlating code language and the reference cited. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Community Risk Reduction Division.

1. Address numbers of residence should be plainly visible from the street.

New and existing buildings shall be provided with approved address identification. The address identification shall be legible and placed in a position that is visible from the street or road fronting the property. Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. (California Fire Code 505.1)

2. A standalone alarm device that can be manually activated in case of a fire is required.

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. (California Fire Code 907.2.6.5)

3. Smoke alarms are required in each room used for sleeping purposes, in hallway outside each sleeping area and on each story of the house.

Single- or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed and maintained in Groups R-2, R-2.1, R-3, R-3.1, and R-4 regardless of occupant load at all of the following locations: On the ceiling or wall outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms; In each room used for sleeping purposes; In each story within a dwelling unit, but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. (California Fire Code 907.2.11.2)

4. If more than 1 smoke detector needs to be installed to meet the requirements for a Large Family Day Care, then all smoke detectors must be interconnected.

Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit or sleeping unit in Group R occupancies, the smoke alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. (California Fire Code 907.2.11.5)

5. The walls shared with the garage and house must be in good condition with no unsealed penetrations. The door from the house to the garage must self close and latch.

The private garage shall be separated from the dwelling unit and its attic area by means of gypsum board, not less than ½ inch in thickness, applied to the garage side. Garages beneath habitable rooms shall be separated from all habitable rooms above by not less than 5/8 inch Type X gypsum board or equivalent and ½ inch gypsum board applied to structures supporting the separation from habitable rooms above the garage. 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 Section 716.5.3 with a fire protection rating of not less than 20 minutes. Doors shall be self-closing and self-latching. (California Building Code 406.3.2.1)

6. Two exits are required. Exits must be remotely located from each other and open directly to the outside. Exits must be a minimum of 32 inches in clear width. Only standard installed locks and handles are permitted.

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 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 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. (California Fire Code 1006.2.2.7)

7. Day care rooms cannot be located above the first floor of any house.

Rooms used for day-care purposes shall not be located above the first story. (California Fire Code 1006.2.2.7)

8. Unenclosed gas-fired water heaters or furnaces should be protected to avoid contact by a child.

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. This does not apply to kitchen stoves or ovens. (California Building Code 455.7)

9. A 2A10BC fire extinguisher is required to be mounted somewhere accessible in the home.

Large and small family day-care homes shall be equipped with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 2A10BC rating. (California Building Code 455.4)

10. Fire extinguishers will need to be serviced every 12 months or a new extinguisher will need to be purchased. If a new extinguisher is purchased, then the receipt must be attached to the extinguisher to show proof of purchase.

Fire extinguishers shall be subjected to maintenance annually as described in this chapter or immediately after use or when specifically indicated by an inspection or at the time of hydrostatic test. Upon completion of the maintenance procedures each portable fire extinguisher shall be fitted with an annual maintenance tag. (California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Section 575.1, 596.3)

11. Extension cords should only be used for temporary appliances and should not substitute permanent wiring. Extension cords should never pass through walls, ceilings floors or under doors.

Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring. Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor coverings, nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact. Extension cords shall be used only with portable appliances. (California Fire Code 603.6)