



FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD: LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES
EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/2011
CODE REFERENCES: 2010 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE (CFC), 2010 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE (CBC), CRC TITLE 19
NOTE: THIS STANDARD IS A SUMMARY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CLARIFICATIONS OF CITY AND STATE CODES. INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN APPLIES TO TYPICAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND MAY NOT ADDRESS ALL SITUATIONS.

Scope

This guideline outlines the requirements for Large Family Day Care Homes in the City of Petaluma.

Definitions

Day Care: The care of persons during any period of a 24-hour day where permanent sleeping accommodations are not provided.

Family Day-Care Home: A home that regularly provides care, protection and supervision for 14 or fewer children, in the provider's own home, for periods of less than 24 hours per day, while the parents or guardians are away, and is either a *large family day-care home* or a *small family day-care home*.

Large Family Day-Care Home: A provider's own home which is licensed to provide day care for periods less than 24 hours per day for 9 to 14 persons, including children under the age of 10 years of age who reside at the home.

Small Family Day-Care Home: A home which provides family day care to 8 or fewer children, including children under the age of 10 years who reside at the home, in the provider's own home, for periods of less than 24 hours per day. Small family day-care homes are exempted from State fire and life safety regulations other than those State and local standards applicable to Group R-3 occupancies (single family homes) by the California Health and Safety Code, Section 13143 (b).

Codes & Standards

The following items need to be completed and verified during a fire inspection prior to receiving a Fire Clearance.

- A. A City of Petaluma business license must be obtained. Business license information can be found at the following web address: <http://cityofpetaluma.net/finance/bustax.html>.
- B. The Large Family Day Care Home must comply with the following code provisions:



1. Exiting (CFC 1015.7, CRC):

Number of Exits Required. Every story or basement of a large family day-care home shall be provided with two exits which are remotely located from each other.

- A. Dimension Requirements for Exits.** Every required exit shall be of a size to permit the installation of a door that provides not less than 32 inches (813 mm) in clear width and not less than 6 feet 8 inches (2,032 mm) in height.
- B. Use of Sliding Glass Doors.** A manually operated horizontal sliding door with 32 inches (813 mm) in clear width and not less than 6 feet 8 inches in height may be used as one of the required exits.
- C. Use of Basements.** 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.
- D. Exiting Above the First Story.** Rooms used for day-care purposes **shall not** be located above the first story.

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.

- E. Operation of Exit Doors.** Exit doors, including manually operated horizontal sliding doors, shall be operable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. This requirement can be satisfied with the use of interconnected hardware on the main exit door. Interconnected hardware simultaneously retracts both bolt and latch, allowing a single motion egress.
- F. Means of Egress.** All dwellings shall be provided with a continuous and unobstructed path of vertical and horizontal egress travel from all portions of the dwelling to the exterior of the dwelling at the required egress door without requiring travel through a garage.
- G. Floors and landings at exterior doors.** There shall be a landing or floor on each side of each exterior door. The width of each landing shall not be less than the door served. Every landing shall have a minimum dimension of 36 inches (914 mm) measured in the direction of travel. Exterior landings shall be permitted to have a slope not to exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (2-percent).



- H. **Access to the Public Way.** All dwellings shall have a continuous, unobstructed and accessible path of travel to the public way; with a minimum dimension of 36 inches (914 mm) from both approved exits.
- I. **Operation of Yard Gates.** Yard gates blocking egress to the public way shall also be operable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. (2010 CRC R310.1.4)

2. Private Garage Requirements (CRC R302.5):

- A. **Fire Separation Wall.** The private garage shall be separated from the dwelling unit and its attic area by means of a minimum ½ - inch (12.7 mm) gypsum board applied to the garage side, from all habitable rooms above the garage or carport not less than 5/8 inch type X gypsum board or equivalent. (CRC Table R302.6)
- B. **Door Opening Requirements.** 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 (34.9 mm) thick or doors in compliance with (2010 CRC R302.5.1).
- C. **Door Opening to Sleeping Rooms.** Openings from a private garage directly into a room used for sleeping purposes, including areas used for day-care sleeping/napping shall not be permitted.
- D. **Door Operations.** Door openings between a private garage and the dwelling unit shall be self-closing and self-latching.
- E. **Garage Ducts.** Ducts in a private garage and ducts penetrating the walls or ceilings separating the dwelling unit from the garage shall be constructed of a minimum 0.019-inch (0.48 mm) sheet metal and shall have no openings into the garage.

3. Alarms (CBC 445, CRC 315.1):

- A. **Smoke Alarms.** Large Family Day Care Home shall be equipped with State Fire Marshal approved and listed single-station residential-type smoke alarms. The number and placement of smoke alarms shall be determined by the enforcement authority.
- B. **Manual Alarm Device.** Every large family day-care home shall be provided with at least one manual device at a location approved by the Petaluma Fire Department (PFD). 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 acceptable to the PFD, provided that such devices are distinctive in tone and are audible throughout the structure.



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- C. **Carbon Monoxide Alarms.** Existing dwellings or sleeping units that have attached garages or fuel-burning appliances shall be provided with a carbon monoxide alarm. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed and approved by the California State Fire Marshal.

4. Miscellaneous (CBC 445, CFC, Title 22):

- A. **Portable Fire Extinguisher.** Large and small family day-care homes shall be equipped with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 2A10BC rating.
- B. **Location of Portable Fire Extinguisher.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be placed in a location approved by the PFD.
- C. **Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan.** A fire safety and evacuation plan should be prepared, maintained and exercised monthly. Documentation of the fire evacuation drill must be maintained.
- D. **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.
- E. **Residential Quantity Limits of Hazardous Materials.** Aggregate quantities of all hazardous materials including gasoline for lawn maintenance shall not exceed 5 gallons for garage storage in approved containers and 10 gallons for outside storage in approved containers.

5. Inspection

To schedule a fire inspection of a large family day-care, please contact the Petaluma Fire Prevention Bureau at (707) 778-4574. Information about the Petaluma Fire Department can be obtained online at: <http://cityofpetaluma.net/firedept/index.html> .

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