



## FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION BULLETIN

  
CITY OF  
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**SUBJECT: R-3 LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE HOME  
REQUIREMENTS**

**Bulletin Number:** 016  
**Date of Issue:** February 14, 2006

**Code References:**  
2001 California Fire Code (CFC),  
2001 California Building Code (CBC),  
California Code of Regulations – Title 19 State Fire Marshal Regulations  
And Santa Rosa City code Chapters 18-16 and 18-44

**NOTE:** This bulletin is a summary of Fire Department interpretations of City and State Codes.  
Information contained herein applies to typical instances and may not address all circumstances.

### DEFINITIONS:

**Day Care Home, Large Family,** is a provider's own home licensed to provide care for periods less than 24 hours per day for nine to fourteen persons, including children under the age of ten who reside at the home. In order for the licensee to care for more than 12 children the following conditions must be met.

\*An assistant care provider is on hand whenever more than 8 children are in care. Two of the children are at least 6 years of age. If caring for more than 12 children, only 3 may be infants. Notification shall be given to all parents that 2 additional school age children will be cared for, and there may be up to 13 or 14 children in the home at one time. If the property is rented or leased the landlord or property owner must provide written consent for the increase.

### REQUIREMENTS:

Large family day-care homes 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 and be in accordance with the Health and Safety Code and Title 24. (CBC 310.15.2)

\_\_\_\_\_ \*A manual pull device with an approved audible alarm (may be powered by an approved battery) shall be attached to the structure. A system constructed on a hanging board is acceptable, provided it is mounted in an accessible location and is audible throughout the structure. The alarm shall be maintained operable at all times. (CBC 310.15.4 – \*Sonoma County FPO Requirement)

\_\_\_\_\_ A 2A-10BC rated portable fire extinguisher shall be provided in an accessible location. The extinguisher shall be serviced annually by a State Fire Marshal licensed company (licensed companies can be found in the yellow pages of the phone book under “Fire”). (CBC 310.15.3)

\_\_\_\_\_ Two (2) remotely located exits are required. Exit doors can open inward, and one of the two exits may be a horizontal sliding glass door. (CBC 1010)

\_\_\_\_\_ The locking devices on all exit door(s) shall be of a single action design, and shall not require the use of a key or any special knowledge to open them. (CBC 1010)

\_\_\_\_\_ Screen doors are permitted in addition to exit doors provided they open out in the direction of exiting travel and the locking device is of the single action design. (CBC 1003.3.1)

\_\_\_\_\_ Exit pathways shall be clear and accessible to the public right of way (a public way is defined as; any street, alley, or similar parcel of land essentially unobstructed from the ground to the sky which is deeded, dedicated or otherwise permanently appropriated to the public for public use and having a clear width of not less than 10 feet). Exits through the back yard shall be accessible and any locking device shall be of a single action design (if a rear yard has 50 foot separation from the structure to an area of safe refuge and the area is sized to provide three (3) square feet per occupant, the exit may end at this location rather than exiting to the public right of way). (CBC 1006)

\_\_\_\_\_ Rooms used for day care purposes shall not be located above the first floor. **SECOND STORIES SHALL NOT BE UTILIZED BY THE DAYCARE OCCUPANTS.** If the second floor is to be utilized, the operator shall install a complete residential fire sprinkler system and provide one of the two required exits from the second floor directly to the exterior of the building. (CBC 1010)

\_\_\_\_\_ Basements shall have one of the two required exits go directly to the outside without passing through the first floor. (CBC 1010)

\_\_\_\_\_ Open flame devices are not permitted for use during daycare operations (examples: candles, oil burning candles or lamps, etc.). (T-19 3.25)

- \_\_\_\_\_ No extension cords are permitted. All appliances and equipment shall be plugged directly into an electrical outlet. Surge protected power strips may be used as an alternative. All appliances shall be in working order. (CFC 8506.1 & 8504)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Garages shall be separated from living areas by materials equivalent to one-hour fire resistive construction on the garage side and self closing, tight-fitting, solid core door 1 3/8 inches in thickness. (CBC 302.4)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unenclosed gas-fired water heaters or furnaces shall be protected in such a way as to prevent children from making contact with those appliances. (CBC 303.8)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Address numbers shall be provided on the residence, and shall be maintained and visible from the street or road fronting the property at all times. Numbers shall be four-inch minimum in size and shall be lighted or reflective. (CBC 502, SRCC 18-44.901.4.4)

**Permit & Fees:**

It is the responsibility of the day-care provider to verify with the local authority having jurisdiction if a permit and any associated fees will be required for the annual inspection.