

# Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District

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## Large Family Day Care Requirements



In order to receive a large family day care license from the Department of Social Services, you must meet the following fire and building code requirements. Please review these codes to make sure your home meets these requirements. A fire inspector from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire District will need to conduct an inspection of the home to confirm compliance. It is our mission to make sure your home is safe for the children in which care is provided for and to reduce hazards whenever possible.

### **Definition**

***A providers own home licensed to provide daycare for periods less than 24 hours per day for 9 to 14 persons, including children under the age of 10 years who reside at the home (2010 CFC Chapter 2).***

### **CONSTRUCTION**

The separation between the garage and the house may be of materials approved for one-hour fire-resistive construction on the garage side. A self closing, tight-fitting, solid wood door 1 3/8 inches thick must be provided between the garage and the house (2010 CBC Chapter 4 Section 406.1.4).

### **EXITS**

Rooms used for day care purposes shall not be located above the first story (2010 CBC Chapter 10 Section 1015.7).

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

Every story or basement of a large family daycare home shall be provided with two exits which are remotely located from each other (2010 CFC Chapter 10 Section 1015.7).

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 horizontal sliding door may be used as one of the two required exits (2010 CBC Chapter 10 Section 1015.7).

We *recommend* placing stickers, or something similar, on sliding glass doors so that the children recognize when the door is closed.

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 (2010 CBC Chapter 10 Section 1015.7).

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.

### **ALARMS**

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 (2010 CBC Chapter 4 Section 445.3)

A carbon monoxide detector shall be installed outside of each separate dwelling unit sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom(s) and on every level of a dwelling unit including basements (2010 CBC 420.4.2.6).

## **ALARMS CONTINUED**

Every large-family day care home shall be provided with at least one manual device 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 electronically supervised or provided with emergency power. Such device or devices shall be attached to the structure and may be of any type acceptable to the enforcing agency, provided that such devices are distinctive in tone and audible throughout the structure (2010 CBC Chapter 9 Section 907.2.6.4).

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2-A: 10-BC shall be provided. Extinguishers should be conspicuously located where they are readily visible; preferable located along normal paths of travel. Extinguishers shall be mounted so that the top is not higher than 5 feet or lower than three feet from the floor. Fire extinguishers shall be serviced every six years or immediately after use, whichever occurs first. (2010 CBC 906.1)

Fire drills are required at a frequency of at least once per year.

Extension cords shall not be used in place of permanent wiring and shall be used only with portable appliances.