



Fire Department

HEADQUARTERS

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CODE SUMMARY

GROUP I OCCUPANCIES – INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

A code summary is a compilation of code sections related to a specific occupancy or permit. This code summary lists sections of code pertaining to Institutional Buildings as defined by the **California Fire Code**. Under each heading you will find the correlating code language and the reference cited. These requirements pertain to existing buildings. New construction may be subject to additional requirements. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Fire Prevention Division at (805) 681-5500.

SCOPE

Group I Occupancy defined:

The use of a building or portion thereof, in which people, cared for or living in a supervised environment and having physical limitations because of health, or age are harbored for medical treatment or other care or treatment, or in which people are detained for penal or correctional purposes.

Group I-1 defined: Not used

Group I-2 defined: Buildings used for medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing, or custodial care on a 24 hour basis of more than six persons who are classified as non-ambulatory or bedridden. Hospitals, nursing homes, mental hospitals, detoxification facilities, and child care facilities which provide care on a 24-hour basis to more than six children less than the age of 2 and ½ years.

Group I-2.1 defined: Healthcare facilities that receive persons for outpatient medical care that may render the patient incapable of unassisted self-preservation and where each tenant space accommodates more than five such patients.

Group I-3 defined: Buildings or portions thereof which are inhabited by one or more persons who are under restraint; this group shall include correctional centers, detention centers, jails, juvenile halls, prisons and reformatories.

Group I-4 defined: (Day-Care Facilities) Buildings occupied by persons of any age who receive custodial care for less than 24 hours by individuals other than parents, guardians or relatives, and in a place other than the home of the person cared for. A facility such as the above with six or fewer persons shall be classified as a Group R-3.

1. Extinguishers Required:

- A. One Class 2-A rated fire extinguisher shall be provided for each 6000 sq. ft. of light hazard fuel load or for each 3000 sq. ft. of ordinary hazard fuel load. Travel distance shall not exceed 75 feet. (CFC 906.3)

- B. If Class B fuel hazards are present, a Class B rated fire extinguisher shall be provided in accordance with Table 906.3(2) of the CFC. (CFC 906.3)

TYPE OF HAZARD	BASIC MINIMUM EXTINGUISHER RATING	MAXIMUM TRAVEL DISTANCE TO EXTINGUISHERS	
		(in feet)	(in meters)
<i>Light (low)</i>	<i>5B</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>9.15</i>
	<i>10B</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>15.25</i>
<i>Ordinary (moderate)</i>	<i>10B</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>9.15</i>
	<i>20B</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>15.25</i>
<i>Extra (high)</i>	<i>40B</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>9.15</i>
	<i>80B</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>15.25</i>

- C. Fire extinguisher shall not be obstructed or obscured from view. (CFC 906.6)
D. Fire extinguishers not housed in cabinets, shall be installed on the hangers or brackets supplied. Hangers or brackets shall be securely anchored to the mounting surface in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. (CFC 906.7)
E. Extinguishers shall be inspected monthly by the building owner or occupant, or electronically monitored. (T19 Sec. 574.1)
F. Extinguishers shall be subject to maintenance annually by licensed technician. (T19 Sec. 575.1)

2. Means of Egress:

- A. Means of egress shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions. (CFC 1003.6)
B. Means of egress, including the exit discharge, shall be illuminated when the building space is occupied. (CFC 1006.1)
C. In the event of power supply failure, an emergency electrical system shall automatically illuminate aisles, stairways, corridors, and other egress components in areas that require two or more exits. (CFC 1006.3)
D. Egress doors shall swing in the direction of egress travel when serving an occupant load of more than 50 persons. (CFC 1008.1.2)
E. Where two or more exits are required, exit and exit access doors shall be marked by approved exit signs readily visible from any direction of egress travel. (CFC 1011.1)
F. Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated at all times; signs shall be connected to an emergency power system that provides illumination for not less than 60 minutes in case of primary power loss. (CFC 1011.5.3)
Exception:
1.) I-2 occupancies shall provide emergency power for not less than 90 minutes.
G. The common path of egress travel shall not exceed 75 feet in I-2 and I-4 occupancies and 100 feet in I-3 occupancies. (CFC 1014.3)
H. At least two exits shall be provided from areas serving greater than 49 occupants. (CFC 1015.1)
I. Corridor width shall be 72 inches where patients are temporarily incapable of self-preservation. (CFC 1018.2)
J. Corridor width shall be 96 inches in Group I-2 and Group I-3 areas where required for bed movement. (CFC 1018.2)
K. There shall be no dead end corridors more than 20 feet.
Exception: in Group I-3 occupancies, the dead end in a corridor shall not exceed 50 feet. (CFC 1018.4)
L. Required exit access, exits or exit discharges shall be continuously maintain free from obstructions. (CFC 1030.2)

3. Alarm Systems:

- A. A manual fire alarm system shall be installed in Group I Occupancies (CFC 907.2.6)
Exception: Large Family Day Care
B. Group I-2 and I-2.1 shall have a manual and automatic fire alarm system comprised of a smoke detection system that is hooked into the alarm system which activates the occupant notification system. (CFC 907.2.6)
C. Group I-3 shall be equipped with a manual alarm system and an automatic smoke detection system installed to alert staff. (CFC 907.2.6)

- D. The building owner shall be responsible to maintain the fire and life safety Fire systems in operable condition at all times. Service personnel shall meet the qualification requirements of NFPA 72 for maintaining, inspecting, and testing such systems. A written record shall be maintained and shall be made available to the fire code official. (CFC 907.8.5)

4. Housekeeping:

- A. Combustible waste containers larger than 40 gallons shall be constructed of noncombustible material or approved combustible material and provided with a lid. (CFC 304.3)
- B. Combustible waste containers larger than 1.5 cubic yards shall not be stored in buildings or placed within 5 feet of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines. (CFC 304.3)
- C. Materials subject to spontaneous ignition, such as oily rags, shall be stored in a listed disposal container. (CFC 304.3)
- D. Storage of combustible materials shall be orderly, with storage separated from heating devices by a distance or shielded so that ignition cannot occur. (CFC 315.3)
- E. Storage shall be maintained 2 feet or more below the ceiling in nonsprinklered areas or a minimum of 18 inches below sprinkler deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings. (CFC 315.3.1)
- F. Combustible materials shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms. (CFC 315.3.3)
- G. Electrical motors shall be maintained free from excessive accumulations of oil, dirt, waste and debris. Means of egress shall not pass through kitchens, storage rooms, closets or spaces used for similar purposes, or through rooms subject to locking. (CFC 605.8)
- H. Wastebaskets, linen containers and other waste containers, including lids located in I-2 and I-3 Occupancies shall be constructed of non-combustible materials. Portable containers exceeding 32 gallons shall be stored in an area classified as a waste and linen room. (CFC 808.1)
- I. No person operating an occupancy subject to California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1 regulations shall permit any fire hazard to exist on premises under their control, or fail to take immediate action to abate a fire hazard. (T-19 Div.1 3.14)

5. Electrical

- A. A working space of not less than 30 inches in width, 36 inches in depth, and 78 inches in height shall be provided in front of electrical service equipment. Storage is prohibited within the designated working space. (CFC 605.3)
- B. Multiplug adaptors, such as cube adaptors, unfused plug strips or other such devices not complying with the California Electrical Code shall be prohibited. (CFC 605.4)
- C. Extension cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor covering nor subject to physical damage. (CFC 605.4.3)
- D. Extension cords shall not be used in place of permanent wiring. (CFC 605.5)
- E. Appliance cords and extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage. (CFC 605.5.3)
- F. Open junction boxes and open wiring splices shall be prohibited. Approved covers shall be provided for all switch and electrical outlet boxes. (CFC 605.6)
- G. Temporary wiring is allowed for a period not to exceed 90 days; such wiring is allowed for longer periods for construction, remodeling, or repair work. (CFC 605.9)
- H. Portable electric heaters shall not be permitted in I-2 Occupancies. (CFC 605.10)

6. Flammable Liquids:

- A. An operational permit is required for the storage, handling or use of more than 5 gallons of flammable liquid indoors or 10 gallons of flammable liquid outdoors. (California Fire Code 105.6.16)
- B. An operational permit is required for the storage, handling or use of more than 25 gallons of combustible liquid indoors or 60 gallons of combustible liquid outdoors. (California Fire Code 105.6.16)

- C. Storage, use, dispensing and mixing of flammable liquids shall not exceed amounts necessary for laboratory work, maintenance purposes and operation of equipment. (California Fire Code 5704.3.4)
- D. Storage of flammable liquids shall not exceed 30 gallons of Class1A flammable liquid or 120 gallons of Class1B and 1C flammable liquids per control area. Storage of Combustible liquids shall not exceed 120 gallons of Class 2 combustible liquid or 330 gallons of Class 3A combustible liquid. (California Fire Code 5704.3.4.2)
 - Exceptions:
 - 1. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent in buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system.
 - 2. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent when stored in approved storage cabinets, day boxes, gas cabinets, exhausted enclosures or listed safety cans.
 - 3. Where exception #1 and #2 both apply, increase for both exceptions shall be applied accumulatively.
- E. Quantities of flammable and combustible liquids in excess of 10 gallons used for maintenance purposes and operation of equipment shall be stored in liquid storage cabinets. (California Fire Code 5704.3.4.4)

7. Miscellaneous:

- A. An approved fire safety and evacuation plan shall be prepared and maintained for all I Occupancies. (CFC 404.2)
- B. Emergency evacuation drills shall be conducted quarterly on each shift which involves employees of Group I occupancies. (CFC 405)
- C. Training shall be provided to employees during new employee orientation and at least annually thereafter; training shall include fire prevention, evacuation training, and fire safety training. (CFC 406.1)
- D. Employees in I-2 and I-3 Occupancies shall be periodically instructed regarding their duties and responsibilities under the fire safety and evacuation plan. (CFC 408.5)
- E. An approved fire apparatus access road not less than 20 wide shall be provided for access to within 150 feet of all portions of the building. (CFC 503.1.1)
- F. Fire access roads shall be marked with approved signs or markings that state "NO PARKING FIRE LANE". Marking shall be maintained in clean, legible condition and repaired when necessary. (CFC 503.3)
- G. Fire access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles. (CFC 503.4)
- H. Exterior doors and their function cannot be eliminated without approval. If approved, and door retains the appearance as a functional, door shall be posted on the exterior "THIS DOOR BLOCKED". (CFC 504.2)
- I. All buildings shall have approved address numbers or building numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible from the street or road fronting the property. (CFC 505.1)
- J. Natural cut trees shall not be displayed except in areas protected by an approved sprinkler system. (CFC 806.1.1)
- K. Commercial cooking equipment that produces grease laden vapors shall be provided with an automatic fire extinguishing system listed and labeled for its intended use. (CFC 904.11)
- L. In Assembly areas, occupant loads shall be posted in a conspicuous place, near the main exit. (CFC 1004.3)
- M. All drapes, hangings, curtains and other decorative material, including Christmas trees that increase the fire and panic hazard shall be made from a nonflammable material or shall be treated and maintained in a flame retardant condition with a flame-retardant solution approved by the State Fire Marshal. (T19 Sec. 3.08)
- N. Gas cylinders shall be secured by chains, metal straps to prevent overturning. (T19 Sec. 3.18)
- O. Fire sprinkler and standpipe systems shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with Chapter 5 of Title 19 (T19 Sec. 904)

NOTE: Blue indicates those requirements that pertain to new construction. No reference to these requirements in the existing construction section (Chapter 11)