



# Fire Department

## HEADQUARTERS

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## CODE SUMMARY

### LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES (R-3)

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 occupancies 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

##### **Large Family Day Care defined:**

A Large Family Day Care Home is a provider's own home licensed to provide family day care for seven to fourteen children for periods of less than 24 hours per day. This shall include children who reside at the home. Large Family Day Care homes are classified as **Group R-3** occupancies by the State Fire Marshal.

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

New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. (California Fire Code 505.1).

##### **2. A stand-alone 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 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 electrically 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 are audible throughout the structure. (California Fire Code 907.2.6.4)

##### **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 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. (California Fire Code 907.2.11.2)

**4. For houses without fire sprinklers; 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 garage shall be separated from the residence and its attic area by not less than ½ inch gypsum board 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. Other openings between the garage and residence shall be equipped with solid wood doors not less than 1 3/8 inches in thickness, solid or honeycomb core steel doors not less than 1 3/8 inches thick, or 20-minute fire-rated doors. (*California Building Code*)

**5. 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. Yard gates blocking exit paths to the street must also comply with the requirements for exit doors in width and locking hardware unless an approved area of refuse has been provided.(California Fire Code 1015.7)

**6. 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 1015.7)

**7. 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 445.7)

**8. 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 445.4)

**9. 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 Section 575.1)

**10. 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 605.5)