



**EL DORADO HILLS  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE GUIDELINES**

The California Child Day Care Facilities Act is the law that governs state health, safety, and licensing requirements of all child care facilities, including family child care homes. The statute pertaining to the fire safety standards for “Large Family Day Care Homes” can be found in the Health & Safety Code 1597.46. The California State Fire Marshal has additionally set guidelines to promote fire and life-safety standards for children in large family daycare homes. The El Dorado Hills Fire Department has established these guidelines to assist you in preparing your home for your fire safety inspection.

### **DEFINITION**

Home licensed to provide day care less than 24 hours per day for fourteen (14) or fewer children, in the provider’s own home. 2022 California Fire Code (CFC) and California Building Code (CBC).

### **FIRE CLEARANCE**

Community Care Licensing requires that homes in which daycare is provided for nine (9) to fourteen (14) children pass a fire clearance inspection prior to being licensed.

### **ADDRESS**

1. The address of the building must be visible from the street.
2. The numbers shall be internally or externally illuminated, contrast with their background, and have a minimum height of 4 inches. CFC 505.1

### **EXITS**

1. Every story or basement of a large family day care home shall be provided with two exits that are remotely located from each other. Every required exit shall be of 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. CBC/CFC 1006.2.2.7
2. Exits shall be equipped with single-action hardware and open from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. CBC/CFC 1010.2

### **FIRE PROTECTION**

1. Single-station smoke alarms shall be installed in each room used for sleeping purposes and in the hallway or area leading to each sleeping room. In multi-level dwellings and dwellings with basements, a detector shall be installed on each story and in the basement. CBC/CFC 907.2.11.2

2. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area, on every occupiable level of a dwelling unit (including basements), and where a fueled-burning appliance is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom. CBC/CFC 915.2.1
3. At least one manual fire alarm box at a location approved by the Fire Inspector shall be provided. This device shall activate 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(s) shall be attached to the structure and must be a device that is listed and approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. CBC/CFC 907.2.6.5

## **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

One, 2A:10BC fire extinguisher shall be mounted in a visible and accessible location with the top of the extinguisher 3½ - 5 feet above the floor. Fire extinguishers shall be serviced annually with a service tag attached. CBC 455.4 & CFC 906.1

## **FIRE RESISTIVE BARRIERS**

A one-hour, fire-rated separation between the residence (daycare area) and the garage is required. Doors opening from the residence to the garage shall be a self-closing and self-latching, tight-fitting solid-wood door 1-3/8 inches in thickness, or a self-closing tight-fitting door having a fire protection rating of not less than twenty (20) minutes. CBC 406.3.2.1

## **GENERAL FIRE SAFETY**

1. Every unenclosed gas-fired water heater or furnace that is within the area used for childcare shall be protected in such a way as to prevent children from making contact with those appliances and does not apply to kitchen stoves or ovens. CBC 455.7
2. Extension cords shall not be used in place of permanent wiring. Multi-plug adapters, multi-plug extension cords, cube adapters, and other strip plugs shall not be used. Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) listed power strips with surge protection are allowed. Power strips must plug directly into the wall with the appliances plugged directly into the power strip. Power strips cannot be plugged into other power strips. CFC 603.6

## **FIRE DRILLS**

A fire drill shall be conducted at least once every 6 months and a record maintained and available onsite. Health & Safety Code § 1597.54.