Large Family Day Care
Large Family Day Care Homes

Large family day care homes are licensed for day care activities for seven to twelve children for less than 24 hours. They are classified as R-1 and R-3 occupancies and meet the following requirements for fire clearance approval. Review this list and comply with all applicable requirements before fire clearance inspection. Call the inspector named on cover letter between 7 – 8 am if you have questions about this list.

A. Access Roads and Address Numbers
   1. **Access Roads** Provide required access roads from the building to the public street with all-weather hard surfaced material. [19 CCR 3.05(a)]
   2. **Address Numbers** Install address numbers which are a minimum of four (4) inches in height and on a contrasting background. Numbers shall be clearly visible from the street fronting the property and illuminated at night. [SCC 1240]

   The minimum height of numbers shall be:
   - 2” for numbers on illuminated address fixture located on buildings within 25’ of the property line
   - 3” for numbers posted on on-site mail boxes at the front property line
   - 4” for numbers posted on buildings within 50’ from the property line
   - 6” for numbers posted on buildings more than 50’ from the property line provided that the addressing is plainly visible and legible per UBC Section 513. [SCC 1240]

B. Abatement
   1. Abate weeds, rubbish, trash, grass, vegetation, or other material that is dangerous or injurious to property, health, or welfare. [19 CCR 3.07]
   2. Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe. [19 CCR 3.07]
   3. Cut and remove all dead or dying portions of trees located adjacent to or overhanging any building. [19 CCR 3.07]
   4. Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth. [19 CCR 3.07]

C. Supervision and Day Care Activities
   1. **Supervision** Provide competent adult persons who shall give an alarm in the event of fire, assist the occupants of the building to safety, and take other action as necessary. [19 CCR 1.05(a)]
   2. Large family day care activities in rental units must obtain written permission from building owner to conduct day care activities

D. Fire Extinguishers, Fire Alarm, Smoke Detectors, Fire Drill Log, Evacuation
   1. Provide and maintain a minimum rated 2A, 10B:C fire extinguisher. Mount extinguisher where readily available, with its top between three (3) and five (5) feet above the floor. Post sign indicating location where extinguisher is not readily visible. [24 CCR 1218(b)]
   2. Provide the required annual service for the fire extinguisher. This must be performed by a state licensed concern, check the yellow pages under “Fire Equipment” for a list of companies. [24 CCR 1218(b)]
   3. **Fire Alarm** Every family day care home shall provide and maintain a device or devices suitable for sounding a fire alarm. Such device or devices shall be attached to the structure, and may be of any
type acceptable to the enforcing agency, provided they are distinctive in tone and are audible throughout the structure. This device must be able to be switched on and then left unattended, while alarm continues to sound. This may be accomplished by a wall light switch that is connected to an alarm bell, or other suitable method. Whistles, hand held bells, etc., are not permitted. [24 CCR 1218(c)]

4. **Smoke Detectors**. Large family day care homes shall be equipped with single-station residential-type smoke detectors which are approved by the state fire marshal. The number and placement of detectors shall be determined by the enforcement authority.

5. **Fire Drill Log**. Provide for and log monthly fire drills. Log shall include the following information: date, time, number of children present, and alarm device sounded.[19 CCR 1.09]

6. **Evacuation Plan**. Post a drawing of the dwelling that shows the entire house, the area to be used for day care, location of all exits, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, hot water heater, and heating appliances. Make a copy of this plan available for building inspection records at time of inspection. [UFC 12.109]

7. **Fire Alarms**. Provide a telephone (party lines are not allowed). Emergency phone numbers and address shall be posted on or near the phone.

8. Provide a disaster plan which gives the following information:
   a. In emergency dial 9-1-1
   b. What to do in event of an earthquake
   c. What to do in event of a fire
   d. Identify all the exits in the house
   e. Describe a central meeting place outside
   f. Emergency Information card

9. The disaster plan and drawing of the dwelling shall be located at a telephone.

**E. Gas Water Heaters, Furnaces, Fireplaces and Woodstoves**

1. Every unenclosed gas fired water heater or furnace which is within the area used for child care shall be protected in such a way as to protect children from making contact with those appliances. Exception: This does not apply to kitchen stoves or ovens.[24 CCR 1213]

2. Gas appliances shall be connected to the gas supply by approved connectors and vented to approved flues in conformance with the Mechanical Code[UFC 11.404(b) & (c)]

3. Heating appliances shall be listed by the American Gas Association or other recognized testing agency. The heating element or combustion chamber in any such appliance shall be permanently guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by any person or material. [UFC11.404(a)]

4. Provide a barrier for fireplaces, woodstoves, AC units, electrical wiring and disconnects, and heaters. A screen is acceptable for fireplaces.

5. Maintain chimney in a safe condition. Provide and maintain at all times a screen over the outlet of every chimney or stovepipe that is attached to any fireplace, stove or other device that burns any solid or liquid fuel. The screen shall be constructed on nonflammable material with openings of not more than ½ inch in size. [19 CCR 3.07(6)]

6. Remove combustibles and storage from furnace and water heater areas.
7. Fuel fire/heating equipment shall be operating properly with air gas combustion properly burning. Check pilot light for blue flame burning straight up. Clean air filters when clogged or dirty.

8. Unvented kerosene heaters are not permitted.

F. Electrical

1. **Prohibited Use** Extension cords shall not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring. [UFC 85.106(a)]

2. **Use with Portable Appliances** Extension cords are permitted only with portable appliances or fixtures, while in immediate use, in accordance with the following:[UFC 85.106(b)]
   
   a. Each extension cord shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle and shall, except for approved multi-plug extension cords, service only one appliance or fixture.
   
   b. The current capacity of the cord shall be not less than the rated capacity of the appliance or fixture.
   
   c. The extension cord is maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.
   
   d. The extension cord is of the grounded type when servicing grounded appliances or fixtures.

3. **Installation** Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extend through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor coverings, nor be subject to environmental damage or physical impact. [UFC 85.106(c)]

4. **Access** A minimum of 30 inches of clearance shall be provided in front of electrical control panels for access. [UFC 85.108]

G. Combustible and Flammable Liquid Storage

1. Quantities not exceeding 10 gallons are permitted for maintenance purposes and operation of equipment when stored in approved containers and located in a private garage or approved location. [UFC 79.201(e)]

2. Storage of Class I, II, or II-A liquids in excess of 10 gallons shall be in storage cabinets which comply with Uniform Fire Code Section 79.201(g)

H. Exits

1. Provide for two exits, one of which may be a manually operated horizontal sliding door. Exits may pass through kitchens. Doors must be operable without a key, special knowledge, or effort. If a basement is used, one exit must be directly to the outside of the building. Doors to sleeping areas and bathrooms shall also be openable without key, special knowledge, or effort.

   NOTE: Horizontal blinds or other window treatments which would impede emergency evacuation are prohibited.

   NOTE: Exit doors shall not be equipped with any dead bolts, hook and eye, chains, or any other locking device other than a standard schoolhouse type knob. A schoolhouse type knob is one that when locked can still be opened on the inside by just turning the knob. These are also made with an inter-connecting dead bolt that unlocks just by turning the doorknob.[UFC 12.104 & 24 CCR 3304(h)]

2. If necessary, repair doors so they open and close freely. [UFC 12.104(a)]
3. Required exits from the large family day care may not pass through garage.

4. Where basements are used for day care purposes, one of the two required exits shall open directly to the exterior of the building without entering the first floor.

I. Occupancy
1. The occupancy separation between the house and the garage may be constructed with materials approved for use in one hour fire resistive construction on the garage side of the wall and installation of a minimum 1 3/8 thick solid core wood door that is self closing and tight fitting. Ducts passing through the occupancy separation shall be constructed of minimum No. 26 gage galvanized sheet metal on the garage side and have no openings into the garage.

2. Day care activities shall not be conducted in garages.

3. Day care activities shall not be conducted above the first story except in buildings of Type I and Type II fire resistive construction unless building is equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system. The first story is the floor used for residential occupancy nearest the street level that provides primary access to the building.

4. Day care activities shall be confined to areas approved by Building Inspection.

5. Maintain building in a neat and orderly manner, free from any condition that would create a fire or life hazard or a condition which would add to or contribute to the rapid spread of fire. [19 CCR 3.19]

6. Remove obstructions from exits or hallways. [UFC 12.103(a)]

J. Pools
1. Areas used for day care activities whether outside or inside the building shall be isolated from swimming pools by a fence not less than 5’ in height and shall be so constructed as to have no opening, holes or gaps larger than 1 ¾” in any dimension, except for vertical pickets which may be spaced not more than 4” apart. [SCC 16.36.130]

2. Pedestrian access gates shall be self closing and swing away from pool with self latching device where the release mechanism of the latching device is located less than 54” from grade.[SCC 16.36.130]

3. Doors leading directly from the house to the pool must have approved alarms. See Pool Alarm requirements currently in force.

K. Permits
1. Building, electrical and other permits are required to remodel buildings or convert garages to family rooms or rooms used for day care. Contact Building Inspection permit counter for specific information.

2. Building permits active at time of large family day care fire clearance inspection may be required to have final inspection approval prior to fire clearance approval.
EXAMPLES OF "NO-KNOWLEDGE" HARDWARE

Knob Release

Interconnected Deadbolt with Knob Release

"Knob release" shall mean the door is operable from the interior even while in the locked position.
Fire Drills

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
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Fire drills are to be conducted and recorded at least once a month. All residents and staff are required to leave the facility during the drill.

Records must be maintained for licensing purposes.