



# EL DORADO COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION STANDARD

## Large Family Day Care

STANDARD #F-002

EFFECTIVE 05-27-2009

### **PURPOSE:**

To define the requirements for a Large Family Day Care License. To facilitate the quick application and review of new or changed day care facilities in residential buildings.

### **SCOPE:**

Large Family Day Care is a provider's own home which is licensed to provide day care for periods less than 24 hours per day for nine (9) to fourteen (14) persons, including children under the age of ten (10) years who reside at home.

If the individual applying for the large family day care is NOT the home owner, he/she shall provide written notification from the home owner indicating that they authorize the use of this home as a large family day care.

### **AUTHORITY:**

The 2007 California Fire Code as amended by the Fire Department  
The 2007 California Building Code  
The Health and Safety Code

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Provide the following information (this information shall be on plans):
  1. Applicant Name
  2. Applicant Mailing Address
  3. Contact Person Telephone Number
  4. Fax Number or Email (if available)
  5. Existing Occupancy Class
  6. Total Number of Children
  7. Age Group of Children
  8. Home Rented or Owned
  9. After hours emergency contact phone number
  
- B. Provide two (2) sets of plans that are ¼ inch scale on 18 x 24-inch paper. Plans shall include:

1. Two sets of site plans showing the building, fire equipment access (show distance from home to public roadway). Show closest fire hydrant to property, indicate distance to closest side property line, walkways to the public way, stairs, ramps, fences and gates. Site plans do not have to be to scale.
  2. Two sets of floor plans shall indicate the following drawn to scale:
    - a. All doors and hallways and their measurements.
    - b. Stairs, steps, ramps, exterior doors and sliding doors.
    - c. Water heater and furnace locations.
    - d. Smoke or heat detectors, fire alarm, pull station and sounding device.
    - e. Label all rooms, note which rooms will be used for day care purposes.
    - f. Any other significant information you feel applies to fire and life safety.
    - g. Fire extinguisher locations
    - h. If fire sprinklers are installed in the home
- C. Plans shall be submitted to the Fire Department for review and appropriate fees paid for the plan check.
- D. The Fire Department approved stamped set of plans shall be on site at the time of the Fire Department's inspections.
- E. Any construction will require permits from the El Dorado County Building Department. Proof of Building Department permit will be required at the time of the Fire Department final inspection.

### **LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE REQUIREMENTS**

Large family day care is a provider's own home which is licensed to provide day care for a period less than 24 hours per day for nine (9) to fourteen (14) persons, including children under the age of ten (10) years of age who reside at home. Large family day cares are classified as R-3 Occupancies and shall meet the following requirements.

#### **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.
2. **Address Numbers.** Install address numbers on a contrasting background, near a light source. Numbers shall be clearly visible from the street fronting the property and illuminated at night. For buildings within 50-feet from the property line, the numbers shall be a minimum 4-inch in height. If the building is more than 50-feet from the property line, the numbers shall be a minimum 6-in in height.

**B. ABATEMENT**

1. Abate weeds, rubbish, trash, grass, vegetation to conform to the Public Resources Code 4291 and the California Fire Code.
2. Remove that portion of any tree, which extends within ten (10) feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.
3. Cut and remove all dead or dying portions of trees located adjacent to or overhanging any building.
4. Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles or other dead vegetative growth.
5. Clear all weeds, rubbish, trash and vegetation to at least 10 feet from propane tanks.

**C. SUPERVISION AND DAY CARE ACTIVITIES**

1. Provide competent adult supervision who shall give an alarm in the event of fire, assist the occupants of the building to safety and take other action as necessary.
2. Large family day care activities in rental units SHALL obtain written permission from the building owner to conduct day care activities and provide the Fire Department with written approval.

**D. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, FIRE ALARM, SMOKE DETECTORS, FIRE DRILL LOG, EVACUATION PLAN**

1. **Fire Extinguisher:** Provide and maintain a minimum rated 2A 10B: C fire extinguisher. Mount extinguisher where readily available, with the top between three and a half (3½) and five (5) feet above the floor. Post sign indicating location where fire extinguisher is if not readily visible.
2. **Fire Extinguisher Service:** Provide the required annual service for the fire extinguisher. This must be performed by a state-licensed person; check the yellow pages under “Fire Equipment” for a list of companies.
3. **Fire Alarm Devices:** For the purpose of fire notification, at least one UL-FM/ California State Fire Marshal listed manual pull station and sounding device shall be installed in the facility. The pull station shall actuate a distinctive fire alarm signal that shall be audible throughout the facility. Additional sounding devices may be required if deemed necessary, due to inaudibility. The pull station shall be mounted between 42” – 48” to the pull handle, above floor level as approved by the Fire Department. These devices **need not** be interconnected to any other fire alarm device, electrically

supervised, or provided with emergency power.

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. Smoke detectors are required in every sleeping room, in the hallway or area leading to the sleeping rooms and in the main gathering/play room. Additionally, smoke detectors shall sound an alarm audible in all sleeping areas or areas used for day care at a minimum level of 15db above ambient noise level. **One smoke detector shall be installed in each room which day care occurs.**
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. (See attached). The log shall be in posted in clear view with the Evacuation Plan.
6. **Evacuation Plan:** Post a floor plan of the residence that shows the paths of exit. The plan shall be posted in an approved location, usually in the main play area, along with the Fire Drill Log.

#### **E. GAS WATER HEATERS, FURNACES AND WOODSTOVES**

1. Every unenclosed gas fired water heater or furnace, which is within the area used for childcare, shall be protected in such a way as to prevent children from making contact with those appliances. Exception: This does not apply to kitchen stoves or ovens.
2. Heating appliances shall be connected to the gas supply by approved connectors and vented to an approved flue in accordance with the Mechanical Code.
3. Heating appliances shall be listed by the American Gas Association or other recognized testing agency. The heating element or combustion change in any such appliance shall be permanently guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by any person or material.
4. Provide a barrier for fireplaces, woodstoves 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 of non-flammable material with openings of not more than ½ inch in size.
6. Remove combustibles and storage from heater area.
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/replace air filters when clogged or dirty.

8. Unvented kerosene heaters are NOT permitted.
9. A Carbon Monoxide detector shall be required for all homes with wood or gas burning appliances.
10. Clothes dryer vents shall be cleaned of all lint and debris at least once a year. More frequent cleaning may be necessary depending on the amount of dryer usage.

**F. ELECTRICAL**

1. Prohibited Use. Extension cords shall NOT be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.
2. Use with Portable Appliances. Extension cords are permitted only with portable appliances or fixtures, while in immediate use, in accordance with the following:
  - 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 not be 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 the structures, extend through walls, ceiling, floors, under doors or floor coverings, nor be subject to environmental damage or physical impact.
4. Access. A minimum of thirty (30) inches of clearance shall be provided in front of the electrical control panel(s) for access.

**G. COMBUSTIBLE AND FLAMMABLE LIQUID STORAGE**

1. Quantities not exceeding ten (10) gallons are permitted for maintenance purposes and operation of equipment when stored in approved containers and located in private garages or approved location.
2. Storage of Class I, II or III-A liquids in excess of ten (10) gallons shall be in storage cabinets, which comply with the California Fire Code.

## H. EXITS

1. Provide for two (2) 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 and shall be equipped with a self-releasing knob or lever. 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 operable without a key, special knowledge or effort.

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 interconnecting dead bolt that unlocks just by turning the doorknob.

2. Rooms used for day care purposed shall not be located above the first story except in buildings of Type I or Type II FR construction or in buildings provided with an automatic fire sprinkler system installed throughout and conforming to the provisions of Chapter 38 or the California Voluntary Standards for residential sprinkler systems as published by the State Fire Marshal.
3. If necessary, repair doors so they open and close freely.
4. Required exits from the large family day care SHALL NOT pass through garages.

## 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 of 1 3/8" thick solid core wood door that is self-closing with smoke gaskets. 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. We will require proof that a building permit was obtain and approved for any garage converted to living space.
3. Day care activities shall be confined to areas approved by the Fire Department.
4. Day care activities SHALL NOT be conducted above the first story except in buildings of Type I or Type II FR 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.
5. Christmas trees shall be flame-retardant treated and bear a tag stating that the tree is

treated. If the flame-retardant is applied by the home owner, proof of the chemical used and a flame test shall be required by the fire department.

6. 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.
7. Remove obstructions from exits or hallways.

## **J. POOLS**

**Residential swimming pools shall comply with Sections 3109.4.1 through 3109.4.3 of the 2007 California Building Code. Release mechanisms shall be in accordance with Sections 1008.1.8 and 1109.13 of the 2007 California Building Code.**

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 four (4) feet in height and shall be so constructed as to have no openings, holes or gaps larger than two (2) inches in any dimension, except for vertical pickets which may be spaced not more than 1.75 inches apart.
2. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 0.5 inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.

## **K. PERMITS**

1. Building, electrical and other permits are required to remodel buildings or convert garages to family rooms used for day care. Contact the El Dorado County Building Department.
2. Building permits active at time of large family day care fire clearance inspection shall be required to have final inspection approval prior to issuance of fire clearance.

**FIRE DRILLS**

**NAME OF OCCUPANCY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT PERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **YEAR:** \_\_\_\_\_

Month	Date	Time Of Day	Lapse Time Of Drill	No. of Residents	Person Responsible	Comments
January						
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						

**Fire drills are highly recommended by this department. It is also recommended that all residents, staff, and family members participate in the drill by evacuating the facility.**



**RECORDS SHALL BE MAINTAINED ON SITE FOR LICENSING PURPOSES**