



DALLAS FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

INSPECTION & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION DIVISION

1551 BAYLOR ST., SUITE #400, DALLAS, TX 75226
MAIN OFFICE – 214-670-4319 | FAX – 214-670-4524



FOSTER HOME OPERATIONS

This checklist is intended to assist you in preparation for your inspection and provides some of the basic regulations governing the operation of a foster home as defined by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. This is **NOT** a complete list of all Dallas Fire Code requirements and your inspector may bring to your attention other necessary corrections. If you have a particular question or concerns, please contact our main office.

PERMITS

- A State Licensed Facilities: Residential Care fire permit is required to operate a foster care home within the City of Dallas. **(DFC 105.6.53)**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANS (TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE § 749.2907; RULE § 749.2908)

- Each foster home operation should have an emergency safety plan notebook that containing copies of the following documents and be available to the Fire Marshal for review:
 - Emergency Safety Plan shall include:
 - procedures for handling potential disasters and emergencies (fire, severe weather emergencies, and transportation emergencies),
 - procedures for relocating children to a designated safe area or alternate shelter including specific procedures for evacuating children who are under 24 months of age, who have limited mobility, or who otherwise may need assistance in an emergency, such as children who have mental, visual, or hearing impairment, or a medical condition that requires assistance; and
 - procedures for meeting disasters and emergencies, including evacuation procedures, supervision of the children, and contacting emergency help.
 - Home Fire Evacuation Plan shall include:
 - Ensure that an accurate evacuation map is posted, at minimum, in each designated sleeping area of the home. Each evacuation map should clearly outline a primary and secondary evacuation egress route through the exit access to the exit discharge.
 - The evacuation plan should also list the designated meeting place where all individuals will gather once successfully evacuated from the structure. The meeting place or gathering place should be well away from the dangers of the fire or responding emergency vehicles.
 - Fire Evacuation Drill Records shall include:
 - Identity of the person conducting the drill, date and time of the drill, notification method used, special conditions simulated, if applicable, and time required to accomplish complete evacuation.

EXIT WAYS

- Doors must be unlocked and unblocked. **(DFC 1003.6; DFC 703.2)**
- The required width of an exit way must be unobstructed. **(DFC 1031.3)**
 - Egress window obstruction can include but is not limited to, overgrown trees, window air conditioning units, and permanently installed immovable window screens.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- One 2A:10B:C rated portable fire extinguisher is required for every 3,000 sq. ft. of floor space within the immediate vicinity of the kitchen. **(Texas Administrative Code, Rule §749.2913)**
 - In multi-story residences, an additional 2A:10B:C rated portable fire extinguisher is required on each additional level above or below the main level. **(Texas Administrative Code, Rule §749.2913)**

THE ABOVE REFERENCED DFC CITATIONS ARE IN RELATION TO THE ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015 IFC UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

- Mounted in conspicuous accessible locations. When mounted, the bottom of the extinguisher must be at least 4 in. from the floor and top no greater than 5 ft. above the floor. **(DFC 906.6; DFC 906.7; DFC 906.9.2; DFC 906.9.2)**
- Inspected for proper maintenance annually by licensed individuals and must be recharged following use. **(DFC 901.6; NFPA 10)**

SINGLE STATION SMOKE ALARMS

- One operable single-station smoke alarm shall be located outside of each sleeping area within each dwelling and one single-station smoke alarm inside each room used for sleeping purposes. **(Texas Administrative Code, Rule §749.2909)**
 - Single station smoke alarms shall be mounted per the manufacturer's requirements. Typically, on the ceiling at least 4 inches from the wall or mounted on the wall at least 4 inches but no more than 12 inches from the ceiling.
 - In multi-story homes, an additional single-station smoke alarm should be installed that covers the upper floor(s), in addition to those required in the sleeping rooms, should be located at the top of the stairs.

FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

- Flammable and combustible liquids, when stored, are in a location away from exits, doorways, stairways, and other areas that might obstruct egress. **(DFC 315.3.2; DFC 5704.3.3.3)**
- Prohibit sources of ignition for all flammable/combustible liquid storage. **(DFC 5704.2.4)**

KITCHENS

- Maintain stove and vent hoods free of grease. **(DFC 609.3.3.2)**

MISCELLANEOUS

- Address numbers are Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters and contrast with their background. Numbers shall not be spelled out. Each character shall not be less than six (6) inches. **(DFC 505.1)**
- Prevent accumulation of combustible waste material in structures or upon premises. **(DFC 304.1)**
- Combustibles shall not be stored next to the water heater, furnace, or other sources of ignition. **(DFC 315.3.3)**
- Relocatable power taps (surge protector) shall be directly connected to a permanently installed receptacle and not extend through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors, or floor coverings, or be subject to environmental or physical damage. **(DFC 605.4.2; DFC 605.4.3)**
- Provide cover plates for all electrical panels, outlets, boxes, and junctions. **(DFC 605.6)**
- Extension cords shall not be utilized in place of permanent wiring. **(DFC 605.5)**
- Carbon monoxide detection shall be installed in dwelling units and sleeping units that contain a fuel-burning appliance or fuel-burning fireplace or where there are communication openings between the fuel-burning appliance, fuel-burning fireplace, or private garage. **(DFC 915.1.2; DFC 915.1.4; DFC 915.1.5; DFC 915.2; DFC 1103.9)**
- A foster home must store dangerous tools and equipment, such as hatchets, saws, and axes, so they are inaccessible to children. **(Texas Administrative Code, Rule §749.2915)**

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