

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District
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Child care facilities within the State of Florida are governed by numerous agencies and regulations including:

- Florida Fire Prevention Code, 6th Edition
- Florida Department of Children and Families

These codes and other licensing and regulatory measures are in effect to safeguard the health, safety and well-being of children while in child care facilities.

The enclosed guidelines are a summary listing of requirements and do not represent all requirements or codes. For additional information on fire safety codes for child care facilities, contact the North Collier Fire Prevention Bureau.

CHILD CARE FACILITY FIRE SAFETY GUIDELINES

*To Educate Child Care Professionals
on Life Safety in the Day Care Setting*



CHILD CARE FACILITY FIRE SAFETY GUIDELINES

PROTECTION SYSTEMS

- Fire extinguishers shall be certified annually by a licensed fire equipment company.
- Fire extinguishers shall be checked monthly by Staff to ensure that gauges register in the green.
- Fire alarm and sprinkler systems shall be tested annually by a certified and licensed fire sprinkler company.
- All EXIT signs shall be illuminated and have a battery backup.
- All emergency lighting shall have a battery backup and monthly inspections by Staff.
- Smoke detectors should have batteries changed twice per year with batteries marked with installation date. A good rule of thumb is to change smoke alarm batteries when you change your clocks twice a year as Daylight Savings Time begins and ends.
- Hood fire suppression systems shall be certified semi-annually by a licensed company.

HOUSEKEEPING

- All storage shall be kept a minimum of 18 inches from sprinkler heads and ceilings
- All extension cords shall have surge protection (UL rated power strip).
- All electric panels shall be unobstructed with a 36 inch clearance.
- At least one **corded telephone** must be available for the staff during hours of operation.
- Every closet door latch shall be such that clients can open the door from inside the closet.
- Every bathroom door lock shall be designed to allow opening of the locked door from the outside by an opening device that shall be readily available to the staff.
- There shall be emergency lighting in Interior stairs and hallways, assembly spaces, interior or limited access portions of buildings and shops and laboratories.
- No cooking is allowed, only food warming, unless a hood suppression system is in place.
- Licensing and State certifications shall be visibly posted.

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

- A minimum of 18 inches must be maintained around individual napping and sleeping areas.
- Fire drills shall be conducted monthly with an accountability system in place (fire drill log).
- At least one staff member with a valid first aid training and infant/child cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificate must be present at all times.
- An emergency evacuation plan is required, including a diagram of safe routes that personnel and children may use to exit **each area** of the facility.
- A copy of the emergency evacuation plan must be posted in **each room** of the facility.
- There shall be a minimum of two (2) separate exits provided on each floor and accessible from every part of each floor and mezzanine.
- Staffing to children ratios include:
 - Newborn to 1 Year Old 1:4
 - 1 Year to 2 Years Old 1:6