



FIRE PREVENTION & INVESTIGATION DIVISION

125 Idylwyld Drive South
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Bulletin 2-10

New Residential Care Homes

This guideline shall apply to all care homes classified for *residential occupancy* meaning that they have a single housekeeping unit and provide sleeping accommodation for 10 or less persons including the caregiver's family. All applicable sections of the National Building Code, National Fire Code of Canada, Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services Bylaw 7990 and The Property Maintenance and Nuisance Abatement Bylaw 8175 shall apply. Notably:

1. The civic address shall be prominently displayed and clearly visible from the street.
2. An Emergency Evacuation Plan must be available for review by the Fire Department and posted in a prominent place in the home.
3. Portable Fire Extinguisher:
 - a) A 2A-10BC or larger portable fire extinguisher shall be mounted to the wall in a conspicuous location in the kitchen and the basement of the home so they are readily accessible in a fire.
 - b) The top of the portable fire extinguisher shall be not more than 1.530 m (5 feet) above the floor and the bottom not less than 102 m (4 inches) above the floor.
 - c) A qualified technician must inspect all portable fire extinguishers annually.
4. Smoke alarms:
 - a) Interconnected smoke alarms must be installed in each sleeping room.
 - b) At least one smoke alarm shall be installed on each storey of the residence.
 - c) A smoke alarm shall be installed between sleeping rooms and the remainder of the residence. If a hallway serves the sleeping rooms, the smoke alarm shall be located in the hallway.
 - d) Smoke alarms shall have a permanent connection to an electrical circuit and not have disconnect switches between the over current device and the smoke alarm.
 - e) Smoke alarms shall be interconnected, meaning that they are wired so that the activation of one smoke alarm will cause all other smoke alarms to sound.

5. Carbon Monoxide Alarm:
A care home facility that has a fuel burning appliance within the dwelling unit or suite or has a garage attached to the dwelling unit or suite requires Carbon Monoxide Alarms.
- a) A carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed either inside each bedroom or within 5 m of each bedroom door in the hallway or area adjacent to the bedrooms.
 - b) A carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed in every room containing a solid-fuel-burning appliance.
 - c) Carbon monoxide alarms shall have a permanent connection to an electrical circuit and not have disconnect switches between the over current device and the carbon monoxide alarm.
 - d) Carbon monoxide alarms shall be interconnected, meaning that they are wired so that the activation of one CO alarm will cause all other CO alarms to sound.
6. Sprinkler system:
- a) A sprinkler system is required in every home with an occupant not capable of self preservation or an occupant load more than 10 persons.
Capable of self preservation means a person is capable of recognizing and responding to an emergency given his or her physical, cognitive and behavioural abilities, and is able to arise and walk, or transfer from bed or chair to a means of mobility, and leave the building or move to a safe location on his or her own without the assistance of another person.
 - b) A sprinkler system is required for any dwelling with 10 or more residents.
 - c) A qualified technician must perform the annual sprinkler system test.
7. Emergency lighting:
- a) Emergency lighting is required in every home with an occupant not capable of self preservation or an occupant load more than 10 persons. *Capable of self preservation means a person is capable of recognizing and responding to an emergency given his or her physical, cognitive and behavioural abilities, and is able to arise and walk, or transfer from bed or chair to a means of mobility, and leave the building or move to a safe locations on his or her own without the assistance of another person.*
 - b) Emergency lighting is required for any home with more than 10 occupants.
 - c) Emergency lighting shall provide an average level of illumination not less than 10 lx at floor level.
 - d) Emergency lighting shall be tested monthly to ensure the lights function upon failure of power supply.
 - e) Emergency lighting shall be tested annually to ensure lights will remain illuminated for a minimum of 30 minutes upon failure of power supply.
 - f) Portable night light/flashlight style devices are not acceptable for emergency lighting.
8. Exits:
- a) One exit from each building area is acceptable provided that there are stairs to the exit level and sleeping room windows have an unobstructed opening not less than 0.35m² and no dimensions less than 380mm (15 inches). (See Bedroom Window Advisory - Effective Date: July 2001)

- b) Windows are not required to open if a sleeping room door provides direct access to the exterior or the building is sprinklered.
 - c) Locking, latching and other fastening devices on every exit door shall permit the door to be readily opened from the inside without the use of keys, special devices or specialized knowledge of the door opening mechanism.
9. Guard and handrails must be installed on stairs and around openings.
 10. No storage shall be permitted within the enclosure of fuel-fired appliances.
 11. Extension cords shall not be used as a permanent method of wiring.
 12. A carbon monoxide detector is required where a fuel-fired appliance exists in the residence or an attached garage and installed as per manufacturer's instructions.
 13. Door to attached garage shall be equipped with a listed self-closing device that causes the door to close and latch after each use.
 14. Paths and walkways from exit doors are to be maintained clear of ice, snow and debris.

Changes to an existing care home may require the authorized owner to complete a "RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION" It is the responsibility of the designer or competent person to ensure that all code requirements are reflected on the drawings submitted for a building permit.



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Bulletin 8-11

RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME **CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR**

Carbon monoxide is often referred to as the 'silent killer' because it can build up to lethal levels before anyone even knows it is there. This odourless, colourless, and tasteless gas is produced when fuels do not burn completely. Gas or oil fuelled furnaces, refrigerators, clothes dryers, water heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves, charcoal grills, gas ranges and space heaters can all produce carbon monoxide if not properly maintained. Carbon monoxide is commonly found in vehicle exhaust and can find its way into a home if vehicles are left running in enclosed spaces.

The best protection is provided by working CO detectors, and annual professional inspection of your fuel fired appliances and chimneys.

The Saskatoon Fire Department requires that a carbon monoxide detector be installed in your Residential Care Home. This detector should:

1. Conform to CAN/CSA-6.19 "Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarming Devices.
2. Be installed between sleeping rooms and the remainder of the residence. If a hallway serves the sleeping rooms, the carbon monoxide detector shall be located in the hallway.
3. Have a permanent connection to an electrical circuit and not have disconnect switches between the over current device and the carbon monoxide detector.
4. Interconnected if there are two or more detectors installed; meaning that they are wired so that the activation of one carbon monoxide detector will cause all other carbon monoxide detector to sound.
5. Inspected and tested monthly and record of the monthly inspection and testing of detectors shall be maintained on premise.

It is permissible to use units that combine both smoke alarm and carbon monoxide in the same detector.