A publication of Fairfax County, Virginia

FIRE SAFETY & EVACUATION PLANNING

STATE REGULATED CARE FACILITIES

in Groups R-2, R-3, R-4, and R-5 Licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia

Office of the Fire Marshal
Plans Review Branch
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OVERVIEW

This publication outlines the fire safety and evacuation planning requirements for residential-based state regulated care facilities (SRCF) located within Fairfax County and the towns of Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna. A SRCF is a building with an occupancy in Group R-2, R-3, R-4 or R-5 occupied by persons in the care of others where program oversight is provided by the following state agencies: Department of Social Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Education, and Department of Juvenile Justice.

FIRE SAFETY & EVACUATION PLAN REQUIRED. In accordance with Section 404.2 of the Fire Prevention Code, an approved fire safety and evacuation plan shall be prepared and maintained when a state license is required by the Commonwealth of Virginia agencies listed above to operate a SRCF. The minimum required contents of the plan, along with plan maintenance requirements, are outlined on pages two and three of this publication. Specific use and occupancy-related requirements, employee training and response, emergency evacuation drills, lockdown planning, and emergency responder notification are also addressed.

APPROVAL REQUIRED

Pursuant to Section 401.2 of the Fire Prevention Code, required fire safety and evacuation plans shall be approved by the Office of the Fire Marshal. To accomplish this approval, required fire safety and evacuation plans shall be submitted to the Office of the Fire Marshal for review. The review is conducted to ensure the requirements of the Fire Prevention Code are addressed.

SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS. Submit three (3) copies of the fire safety and evacuation plan and one (1) copy of the state license, along with a self-addressed return envelope, appropriately sized for the material submitted, to the following address for review:

Fairfax County Office of the Fire Marshal
ATTN: Revenue & Records Branch (Evacuation Plans)
10700 Page Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22030

An hourly fee of $156 will be charged for the review of the fire safety and evacuation plan. Hourly fees are charged in quarter hour increments ($39), rounded to the next quarter hour. Do not include a payment with your plan submittal. You will be billed. Be sure to provide an accurate billing address along with contact information for the person responsible for the plan.

RETRIEVING THE APPROVED PLAN. After the plan is reviewed and approved, please make arrangements to retrieve copies of the approved plan. The Office of the Fire Marshal will retain one copy of the approved plan on file. Plans may be retrieved one of two ways, either picked up at our office during regular office hours or returned by mail. To find out the status of your submitted plan, contact 703-246-4803 during regular office hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PLAN CONTENTS

The fire safety and evacuation plan for SRCF consist of four (4) main parts:

- Cover Page
- Written Plan
- Floor Plan w/ Evacuation Routes Shown
- Site Plan

COVER PAGE *(Part 1)*

The cover page shall contain the following information:

1. Name, address, and telephone numbers of the SRCF (tenant).
2. Name, address, and telephone numbers of the building owner (if different than tenant).
3. Description of the licensed program of care conducted in the SRCF.
4. Square footage of occupancy and number of occupied floors above- and below-grade.
5. Approximate census of occupants or maximum potential occupancy of entire building.
6. Identification and assignment of personnel who can be contacted for further information or explanation of duties under the plan. *(404.3.1)*
7. Emergency contact information for key operational personnel and building owner's agent.

WRITTEN PLAN *(Part 2)*

The written plan shall contain the following information and/or procedures:

1. **Reporting Fire Emergencies**
   - Describe the preferred and any alternative means of reporting fires and other emergencies to the fire department or emergency response organizations. *(404.3.1)*
2. **Evacuation Procedures & Escape Routes**
   - Designate emergency egress or escape routes, and whether evacuation of the building is to be complete or, where approved, by selected floors or areas only. *(404.3.1)*
   - Explain the life safety strategy and procedures for notifying, relocating, or evacuating occupants, including occupants who need assistance. *(404.3.2)*
   - Describe the preferred and any alternative means of notifying occupants of a fire or emergency, and where provided, include a description of the emergency voice/alarm communication system alert tone and preprogrammed voice messages. *(404.3.1)*
3. **Accountability of Evacuees**
   - Designate the evacuation assembly area(s) on the exterior of the occupancy. *(404.3.2)*
   - Explain the procedures for accounting for employees and occupants after evacuation has been completed. *(404.3.1)*
4. **Emergency Response Duties**
   - Explain the procedures for employees who must remain to operate critical equipment before evacuating, if applicable. *(404.3.1)*
   - Explain the procedures for assisted rescue of persons unable to use the general means of egress unassisted.
   - List the identification and assignment of personnel responsible for rescue or emergency medical aid, if applicable. *(404.3.1)*
5. **Occupancy Hazards**
   - List all major fire hazards associated with the normal use and occupancy of the premises, including maintenance and housekeeping procedures. *(404.3.2)*
   - List the identification and assignment of personnel responsible for fire protection systems, maintenance, housekeeping and controlling fuel hazard sources. *(404.3.2)*

FLOOR PLAN *(Part 3)*

The floor plan shall clearly illustrate the following information:

1. Location of occupancy inside building (i.e., floor, section, above-grade, below-grade).
2. Location of all exit corridors, exit stairs, and exits serving the occupancy.
3. Primary evacuation routes leading to the designated assembly point (solid lines).
4. Secondary evacuation routes leading to the designated assembly point (dashed lines).
5. Accessible egress routes, areas of refuge, and exterior areas for assisted rescue. **
6. Location of all fire alarm and fire suppression manual activation stations.
7. Location of all portable fire extinguishers.
8. Location of fire alarm display and/or control panels (if applicable).

** Accessible egress route means facilities accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

SITE PLAN *(Part 4)*

The site plan shall clearly illustrate the following information:

1. Building footprint showing location of all exit discharges serving the occupancy and paths leading to the public way.
2. Location of designated evacuation assembly area(s) identified in the written plan.
3. Routes of fire department and emergency vehicle access (all sides of building).

Once you have completed all four (4) parts of the plan, double-check the plan to ensure that all Fire Prevention Code requirements outlined in this publication are addressed. Then, assemble three (3) copies of the completed plan, along with one (1) copy of the state license, and submit for review and approval as specified on the front page of this publication.

AVAILABILITY & DISTRIBUTION OF PLAN

In accordance with Section 404.5 of the Fire Prevention Code, fire safety and evacuation plans shall be available in the workplace for reference and review by employees, and copies shall be furnished to the fire code official for review upon request. In addition, fire safety and evacuation plans shall be distributed to the tenants and building service employees by the owner or owner's agent. Tenants shall distribute to their employees applicable parts of the fire safety plan affecting the employees' actions in the event of a fire or emergency.

MAINTENANCE & UPDATE OF PLAN

In accordance with Section 404.4 of the Fire Prevention Code, fire safety and evacuation plans shall be reviewed or updated annually or as necessitated by changes in staff assignments, occupancy, or the physical arrangement of the building.

USE & OCCUPANCY-RELATED REQUIREMENTS (Group R-4 Only)

In accordance with Section 408.10 of the Fire Prevention Code, state regulated residential care/assisted living facilities in residential Group R-4 occupancies shall comply with the following code provisions related to evacuation drill frequency and resident and staff training in addition to the general requirements for emergency planning and preparedness. These additional code requirements do not apply to SRCF in residential Groups R-2, R-3, and R-5.

- **Special Staff Actions.** In accordance with Section 408.10.1 of the Fire Prevention Code, the fire safety and evacuation plan required by Section 404 shall include special staff actions, including fire protection procedures necessary for residents, and shall be amended or revised upon admission of a resident with unusual needs.

- **Periodic Staff Training.** In accordance with Section 408.10.2 of the Fire Prevention Code, employees shall be periodically instructed and kept informed of their duties and responsibilities under the plan. Such instruction shall be reviewed by the staff at least every two months. A copy of the plan shall be readily available at all times within the facility.
- **Resident Training Required.** In accordance with Section 408.10.3 of the Fire Prevention Code, residents capable of assisting in their own evacuation shall be trained in the proper actions to take in the event of a fire. The training shall include actions to take if the primary escape route is blocked. Where the resident is given rehabilitation or habilitation training, training in fire prevention and actions to take in the event of a fire shall be a part of the rehabilitation training program. Residents shall be trained to assist each other in case of fire to the extent their physical and mental abilities permit them to do so without additional personal risk.
- **Resident Participation Required.** In accordance with Section 408.10.5 of the Fire Prevention Code, emergency evacuation drills shall involve the actual evacuation of residents to a selected assembly point and shall provide residents with experience in exiting through all required exits. All required exits shall be used during emergency evacuation drills. Actual exiting from windows shall not be required. Opening the window and signaling for help shall be an acceptable alternative.

EMPLOYEE & STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Fire Prevention Code requires employees and staff of state regulated care facilities (SRCF) be trained in the fire emergency procedures described in their approved fire safety and evacuation plans. Training shall be based on these plans. Employees shall receive training in the contents of fire safety and evacuation plans and their duties as part of new employee orientation and at least annually thereafter. Records shall be kept and made available to the fire marshal upon request.

- **Fire Prevention Training**. Employees/Staff shall be apprised of the fire hazards of the materials and processes to which they are exposed. Each employee shall be instructed in the proper procedures for preventing fires in the conduct of their assigned duties.
- **Evacuation Training**. Employees/Staff shall be familiarized with the fire alarm and evacuation signals, their assigned duties in the event of an alarm or emergency, evacuation routes, areas of refuge, exterior assembly areas, and procedures for evacuation.
- **Fire Safety Training**. Employees/Staff assigned fire-fighting duties shall be trained to know the locations and proper use of portable fire extinguishers or other manual fire-fighting equipment and the protective clothing or equipment required for its safe and proper use.

FIRE DEPARTMENT (911) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with sections 401.3 and 2703.3.1 of the Fire Prevention Code, notification of emergency responders shall be as follows:

- **Fire Events**. In the event an unwanted fire occurs on a property, the owner or occupant shall immediately notify the fire to the fire department (911) and implement the evacuation plan.
- **Alarm Activations**. Upon activation of a fire alarm signal, employees or staff shall immediately notify the fire department (911) and implement the evacuation plan.
- **Hazardous Materials Release**. Any person who witnesses, discovers, or otherwise has knowledge of a spill, leak or other release of a hazardous material or other material that may negatively impact the environment, regardless of quantity, shall immediately report such spill, leak or release to the Department of Public Safety Communications (911).

PROHIBITED ACTIONS

- **Delayed Notification**. A person shall not, by verbal or written directive, require any delay in the reporting of a fire to the fire department.
- **False Report**. It shall be unlawful for a person to give, signal, or transmit a false alarm.
- **Interference with F.D. Operations**. It shall be unlawful to interfere with, attempt to interfere with, conspire to interfere with, obstruct or restrict the mobility of or block the path of travel of a fire department emergency vehicle in any way, or to interfere with, attempt to interfere with, conspire to interfere with, obstruct or hamper any fire department operation.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS

In accordance with Section 405 of the Fire Prevention Code, emergency evacuation drills complying with the provisions listed below shall be conducted at least annually or when required by the fire code official. Drills shall be designed in cooperation with the local authorities.

- **Purpose.** Emergency evacuation drills shall be held to familiarize occupants, employees, and staff with the evacuation procedure.
- **Leadership.** Responsibility for planning and conducting the drills shall be assigned to a competent person(s) designated to exercise leadership.
- **Time.** Drills shall be held at unexpected times and under varying conditions to simulate the unusual conditions that occur in case of fire.
- **Records.** Records of required emergency evacuation drills shall be maintained and include:
  - Identity of the person conducting the drill, date, and time of the drill
  - Notification method used and staff members on duty and participating
  - Number of occupants evacuated
  - Special conditions simulated
  - Problems encountered
  - Weather conditions when occupants were evacuated
  - Time required to accomplish complete evacuation
- **Notification.** Prior notification of the emergency evacuation drill is required. Notification shall be made by calling DPSC at **703-691-2131**.
- **Initiation of Evacuation.** Where a fire alarm system is provided, emergency evacuation drills shall be initiated by activating the fire alarm system.
- **Accountability.** As building occupants arrive at the assembly point, efforts shall be made to determine if all occupants have been successfully evacuated or have been accounted for.
- **Recall & Reentry.** An electrically or mechanically operated signal used to recall occupants after an evacuation shall be separate and distinct from the signal used to initiate the evacuation. The recall signal initiation means shall be manually operated and under the control of the person in charge of the premises or the official in charge of the incident. No one shall reenter the premises until authorized to do so by the official in charge.
- **Unplanned Evacuations Not a Substitute for Required Drills**. Evacuations made necessary by the unplanned activation of a fire alarm system or by any other emergency shall not be substituted for a required drill.

In accordance with Section 405.2 of the Fire Prevention Code, required emergency evacuation drills shall be held at the intervals specified in the table below, or more frequently, where necessary to familiarize all employees and/or occupants with the evacuation procedure.

Occupancy Type	Frequency	Participation
All State Regulated Care Facilities (SRCF) *	**Monthly**	**All Occupants**

FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS OUT-OF-SERVICE

In accordance with Section 901.7 of the Fire Prevention Code (as amended by Fairfax County), where a fire protection system is out of service, the fire department and the fire code official shall be notified immediately by calling the Office of the Fire Marshal at 703-246-4821 during regular office hours. Otherwise, notification shall be made by calling DPSC at 703-691-2131.

HAZARD COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Fire Prevention Code requires the following with respect to hazardous materials:

- **MSDS.** Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all hazardous materials requiring a Fire Prevention Code Permit (FPCP) from the Office of the Fire Marshal shall be readily available on the premises as a paper copy, or where approved by the fire marshal, shall be permitted to be readily retrievable by electronic access.
- **Labeling.** Individual containers of hazardous materials, cartons or packages shall be marked or labeled in accordance with applicable federal regulations. Buildings, rooms and spaces containing hazardous materials shall be identified by hazard warning signs.
- **Liaison Personnel.** Persons responsible for the operation of areas in which hazardous materials are stored, dispensed, handled or used shall be familiar with the chemical nature of the materials and the appropriate mitigating actions necessary in the event of a fire, leak or spill. Responsible persons shall be designated and trained to be liaison personnel for the fire department. These persons shall aid the fire department in preplanning emergency responses and identification of the locations where hazardous materials are located and shall have access to Material Safety Data Sheets and be knowledgeable in the site emergency response procedures. Liaison personnel should be identified in the written plan.

LOCKDOWN PLANS

Where facilities develop a lockdown plan requiring that occupants be sheltered and secured in place within a building or occupancy when normal evacuation would put occupants at risk, the lockdown plan shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the Fire Marshal. Detailed information on lockdown planning requirements and approval procedures is available online at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/prevention/fmpublications/fmevac/lockdownevac.pdf

EDUCATION & PLANNING RESOURCES

To obtain more information which may assist you in developing a fire safety and evacuation plan, or to enhance occupant safety in SRCF, copy and paste any of the following web addresses into your browser, or simply search the Internet for these topics.

- **Every Business Should Have an Evacuation Plan**
  www.ready.gov/business/index.html
- **Make an Evacuation Plan**
  www.ready.gov/business/plan/evacplan.html
- **How to Create an Emergency Evacuation Map**
  www.steamwire.com/how-to-create-an-emergency-evacuation-map-for-your-business/

Fairfax County is committed to a policy of non-discrimination in all county programs, services, and activities. Upon request, the Office of the Fire Marshal can provide documents and publications in alternative formats and in different languages. Please call 703-246-4753 (TTY: 711 or 1-800-828-1120) or write us at the following address: Office of the Fire Marshal, 10700 Page Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22030. Allow at least seven to ten working days for preparation of material.