



Fire & Life Safety Section

Healthcare Quality

Bureau of Nursing Homes & Medical Service



Fire & Life Safety

Our Team

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Top 10

Fire & Life Safety Violations Citations

Regulation 60-84

Period ending March 31, 2025
240 inspections / 211 violations



Can the fire alarm control panel can be replaced without DPH approval?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Can the fire alarm control panel can be replaced without DPH approval?

- A. Yes
- B. No



#10

1903. Submission of Plans (3)

B. Plans and specifications shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval for projects that have an effect on:

- Active and/or passive fire safety systems
- Life safety systems
- Exit corridors



Examples of Noncompliance

- Fire alarm panel replacement, upgrades.
- Fire sprinkler system upgrades.
- Replacement of roofing.
- Repairs to ceilings and walls. *(Depending on size)*



9

1703 Housekeeping (4)

The facility and its grounds shall be clean, and free of vermin and offensive odors.



Examples of Noncompliance

- Offensive odors present.
- Evidence of bugs, rodents.
- Excessive Storage.
- Overgrown landscaping.

When can Fire Rated doors can be blocked open ?



- A. At the resident's request.
- B. When it's convenient for the resident.
- C. Only when held open by a device that is connected to the fire alarm system and releases on fire alarm activation.
- D. During night or third shift.

When can Fire Rated doors can be blocked open ?



- A. At the resident's request
- B. When it's convenient for the resident.
- C. Only when held open by a device that is connected to the fire alarm system and releases on fire alarm activation.**
- D. During night hours



8

2605 Doors (5)

All resident room doors shall be solid-core. Resident room doors shall be rated and provided with closers and latches as required by the codes referenced in Section 1902



Examples of Noncompliance

- Resident room doors are rated fire doors and must have closures installed in six bed or more.
- Fire Rated doors that do not close and achieve a positive latch.
- Fire Rated doors that are blocked open.

Is oxygen signage required in a non-smoking building?



A. Yes

B. No

Is oxygen signage required in a non-smoking building?



A. Yes

B. No



7

2104.A Gases (5)

Safety precautions shall be taken against fire and other hazards when oxygen is dispensed, administered, or stored. “No Smoking” signs shall be posted conspicuously, and cylinders shall be properly secured in place.



Examples of Noncompliance

- “No smoking” signs not posted
- Cylinders not secured.

Portable space heaters can be used?



- A. Upon a resident's request.
- B. As supplemental heat.
- C. Anytime the heating system fails to maintain adequate temperatures.
- D. Only during an emergency with DPH/FLS approval.

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#6

2105.B. Furnishings and Equipment (10)

- No portable electric or unvented fuel heaters shall be permitted in the facility.



Examples of Noncompliance

- Portable Space Heaters in use without authorization.
- *Only allowed for temporary use during an emergency with permission from DPH FLS*



Can exit doors be blocked or locked to prevent elopement?

A. Yes

B. No

Can exit doors be blocked to prevent elopement?



A. Yes

B. No

5

2201 Number and Locations of Exits (14)



The facility shall maintain halls, corridors and all other means of egress from the building to be free of obstructions.



Examples of Noncompliance

- Doors that will not open or need excessive force to open.
- Items such as furniture, in the path of egress.
- Special locking arrangements such as delayed egress that do not operate properly.



How frequently are fire drills required?

- A. Monthly per shift
- B. Quarterly per shift
- C. Semi-annual per shift
- D. As needed



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- B. Quarterly per shift
- C. Semi-annual per shift
- D. As needed



4

1504.A Fire Drills (17)

An unannounced fire drill shall be conducted at least quarterly for all shifts. Each staff member/ volunteer shall participate in a fire drill at least once each year. Records of drills shall be maintained at the facility, indicating the date, time, shift, description, and evaluation of the drill, and the names of staff members/volunteers and residents directly involved in responding to the drill. If fire drill requirements are mandated by statute or regulation, then provisions of the statute or regulation shall be complied with and shall supersede the provisions of Section 1504



Examples of Noncompliance

- Shifts not completing drill quarterly.
- Staff not participating in a least one drill annually.
- Drill not properly documented.



Fire Drills

- Evacuation to the outside of the building is required during all fire drills.
- Residents must be capable of evacuating without any assistance.*
- Gather at a selected assembly point.
- Account for all occupants.
- Fire alarm must be activated during fire drills.



What is the frequency of HVAC system inspections?

- A. Not a requirement
- B. Semi-annual
- C. Annual
- D. Every four years



What is the frequency of HVAC system inspections?

- A. Not a requirement
- B. Semi-annual
- C. Annual
- D. Every four years

#3

2501.A HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING (18)



The HVAC system shall be inspected at least once a year by a certified/licensed technician.



Examples of Noncompliance

- HVAC Inspection documentation not available.
- HVAC Inspection past due for inspection.



Does my documentation have to be available if I'm not in the facility?

A. Yes

B. No



Does my documentation have to be available if I'm not in the facility?

A. Yes

B. No



#2

1601 General Maintenance (46)

A facility shall keep the structure, component parts, amenities and equipment in good repair, operating condition, and **documented**. A facility shall comply with provisions of the codes officially adopted by the South Carolina Building Codes Council and the South Carolina State Fire Marshal



Examples of Noncompliance

- Light bulbs, missing or burned out, light covers missing.
- Documentation not available.
- Building upkeep, such as rotted wood, peeling paint.
- Loose handrails, flooring, carpeting.

Kitchen hood suppression systems must be inspected?



- A. Annually
- B. Quarterly
- C. Semi-annually
- D. Monthly

Kitchen hood suppression systems must be inspected?



- A. Annually
- B. Quarterly
- C. Semi-annually
- D. Monthly



#1

1502 Tests and Inspections (51)

Fire protection and suppression systems shall be maintained and tested in accordance with the provisions of the codes officially adopted by the South Carolina Building Codes Council and the South Carolina State Fire Marshal applicable to community residential care facilities



Examples of Noncompliance

- Systems that are past due for inspection, have deficiencies, or indicate trouble.
- Hood Suppression system tagged non-compliant or past due for inspection.
- Inspections not documented for fire-rated doors, smoke & fire dampers.

Questions



How can we help you remain complaint?





Frequently Asked Questions

Coffee Makers?

- Can be used if the resident is capable.
- The device must be listed by UL or ETL.
- Plugged directly into a wall outlet.
- Auto off timer recommended.



Frequently Asked Questions

Refrigerators

Can be used.

The device must be listed by UL or ETL.

Plugged directly into a wall outlet.



Frequently Asked Questions

Microwave Ovens?

Can be used if the resident is capable.
The device must be listed by UL or ETL.

Plugged directly into a wall outlet.



Frequently Asked Questions

Hot Plates? Air Fryers? Toaster Ovens?

No.

Impediment to fire prevention.



Frequently Asked Questions

Electric Blankets and Heating Pads

Can be used if the resident is capable.

Have a policy on their use.

The device must be listed by UL or ETL

Plugged directly into a wall outlet.

Auto off timer.



Frequently Asked Questions

Glade / Air Wick Plug Air Fresheners

Can be used.

The device must be listed by UL or ETL.

Plugged directly into a wall outlet.



Frequently Asked Questions

Extension Cords

Temporary or seasonal use only.

(TV's are not generally considered temporary use)

Have a policy on their use.

The device must be listed by UL or ETL.

Not daisy-chained.

Plugged directly into a wall outlet.



Frequently Asked Questions

Windows

In a building with a fire sprinkler system, the windows are not required as an escape opening.

In a building with a fire sprinkler system, the windows can be limited to a 6-8 inch opening for ventilation as required by 61-84.2608



Tips

- If you are not sure, contact us.
- Documentation should always be available.
- Firewatch@dph.sc.gov
- Search: scdph fire and life safety.
- Fire extinguisher training.



How Can We Help?

mcalhadt@dph.sc.gov

803-465-1273