



# Fire & Life Safety Section

Healthcare Quality

Bureau of Nursing Homes & Medical Service



2026

# Community Residential Care Facility

## Fire & Life Safety Presentation

# POP QUIZ





# How often are SCDPH Fire & Life Safety Inspections Conducted?

- A. 12 months
- B. 18 months
- C. To Often
- D. 24 months



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# Objectives

- Review the top cited violations
- Review frequently asked questions.
- Pop Quiz's
- Know who to call when there is a question concerning Fire & Life Safety.
- No violation inspection.



# Fire & Life Safety

## Our Team

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# Fire & Life Safety



SCDPH Fire and Life Safety is a Section of the Bureau of Nursing Homes & Medical Services. Our inspectors are licensed as Fire Marshals by the SC State Fire Marshal's Office and are certified by the International Codes Council and the National Fire Protection Agency.



# Fire & Life Safety

The purpose of our inspections are to ensure that our licensed facilities operate in a safe manner and comply with all applicable DPH Regulations, SC Fire Code and NFPA Standards. As well as those facilities that must also comply with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Regulations.

The Fire and Life Safety Section is responsible for Life Safety in over 1200 DPH licensed facilities.

# Fire & Life Safety



Our focus is to educate staff in order to maintain a fire safe facility and how to appropriately respond in the event of a fire.



# **Fire & Life Safety**

## **What we inspect state**

**CRCF, SNF/NCF, ADC, ICF, ESRD, HTL, ASF, RTF, ITP, HPF**

## **What we inspect for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**

**SNF/NCF, HTL, HPF, ICF, PRTF**



# Fire & Life Safety

- CRCF inspections are conducted at 18-month intervals.
- We conduct revisit / follow up inspections as needed.
- We conduct complaint investigations related to Fire & Life Safety.



# The Rule Book

- Regulation 60-84 Standards for Licensing Community Residential Care Facilities.
- 2021 SC Fire Codes and Referenced Standards.

# Gabriel House Assisted Living

Fall River Massachusetts July 13, 2025 Nine deaths



# Eastern Star Retirement Assisted Living

Denver March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 87 residents displaced



# Wesley Court Assisted Living

Boiling Springs December 10 2025 Residents Displaced



# 19 CRCF Fires resulting in damages and resident displacement



- Clothes dryers
- Cooking
- Smoking
- Mechanical failure





# Top 10

## Fire & Life Safety Violations Citations

### Regulation 60-84

*Period ending December 31, 2025  
392 inspections / 323 violations*

# POP QUIZ





## How often is a fire alarm inspection required?

- A. Every Year
- B. Twice a year
- C. Every Two Years



## How often is a fire alarm inspection required?

- A. Every Year
- B. Twice a year
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# #10

## 1504.D Fire Drills

In conducting fire drills, all residents shall evacuate to the outside of the building to a selected assembly point; drills shall be designed to ensure that residents attain the experience of exiting through all exits.

# Examples of Noncompliance



- Not evacuating during fire drills.
- Not documenting evacuation.



# Fire Drills

- Evacuation to the outside of the building is required during all fire drills.
- In most facilities residents must be able to evacuate without physical or verbal assistance.
- Gather at a selected assembly point.
- Account for all occupants.
- Fire alarm must be activated during fire drills.



# #8

## 2404.C Emergency Electric Service

Emergency electric services shall be provided as follows: Illumination of means of egress;

**#8**

# 2404.C Emergency Electric Service





# Examples of Noncompliance

- Emergency Light doesn't illuminate.
- Doesn't illuminate for the required time period: 30 seconds monthly / 90 minutes annually.
- Doesn't provide adequate lighting.



# #7

## 2105. Furnishings / Equipment

The facility shall maintain the physical plant to be free of fire hazards or impediments to fire prevention

# Examples of Noncompliance





# Examples of Noncompliance

- Curtains, furniture fabric and mattress and pillows, trash cans are not non-combustible.
- Evidence of smoking in prohibited areas.
- Clogged clothes dryer vents.
- Portable Space Heaters.

*(Only allowed for temporary use during an emergency with permission from DPH FLS)*

# POP QUIZ



# Is this a portable space heater? Yes or No



**Is this a portable space heater? Yes**





# #6

## 2104.A Gases

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





# Examples of Noncompliance

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

# POP QUIZ

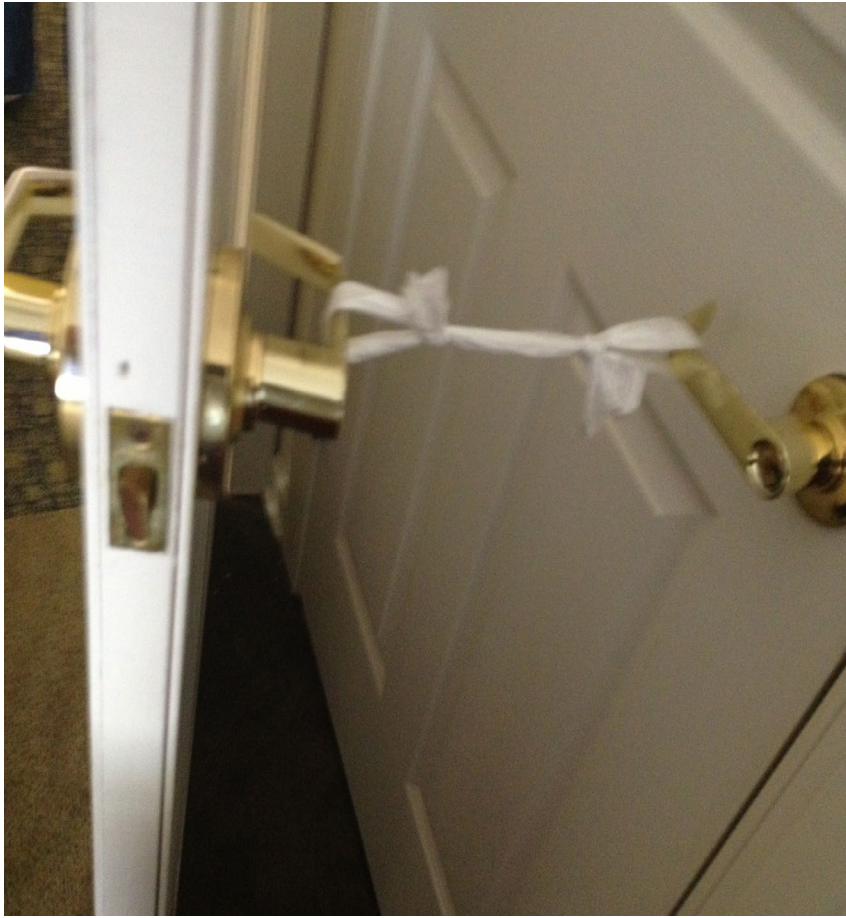




# When can Fire Rated doors be blocked open ?

- A. At the resident's request.
- B. When a wheelchair or walker is causing damage to the door.
- 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.

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# #5

## 2605 Doors

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 facilities with six or more beds.
- Fire Rated doors that do not close and achieve a positive latch.
- Fire Rated doors that are blocked open.



# #4

## 2201 Number and Locations of Exits

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.

# #3

## 2501.A HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING



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.



## #2

# 1504.A Fire Drills

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.
- Drills not properly documented.



# #2

## 1601 General Maintenance

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





# Examples of Noncompliance

- Light bulbs, missing or burned out, light covers missing.
- Documentation not available. (shall document preventive maintenance.)
- 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

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



# Frequently Asked Questions



Why can't we use this stuff?



# Frequently Asked Questions



- 3M™ Fire Block Foam FB-Foam Product Data Sheet 1. Product Description 3M™ Fire Block Foam FB-Foam is a ready-to-use foam fireblock designed to help prevent the spread of flames and smoke in residential Type V and commercial non-rated construction\*.



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Do we have to go outside during Fire Drills?**

**YES**



# Frequently Asked Questions

Can we use portable space heaters?

**NO**



# Frequently Asked Questions

Can we use an electric fireplace?

**NO**



# Frequently Asked Questions

Can I have storage in my electrical /  
mechanical rooms?

**NO**



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Can residents have 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

## Can residents have Refrigerators?

Can be used.

The device must be listed by UL or ETL.

Plugged directly into a wall outlet.



# Frequently Asked Questions

Can residents have Hot Plates / Air Fryers?

**No.**

**Impediment to fire prevention.**



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Can residents use Electric Blankets or 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

**Can we use 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

## What about 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

**Can we secure our windows so they won't open?**

**Maybe a little bit**

**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

- Documentation should always be available.
- [Firewatch@dph.sc.gov](mailto:Firewatch@dph.sc.gov)
- Search: scdph fire and life safety.
- Fire extinguisher training.



# How Can We Help?

[mcalhadt@dph.sc.gov](mailto:mcalhadt@dph.sc.gov)

803-465-1273