

**KAUFMAN COUNTY
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF KAUFMAN COUNTY, TEXAS
3003 S. WASHINGTON KAUFMAN, TEXAS 75142 469-376-4110

**DAY CARE CENTER OCCUPANCIES
FIRE & LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION GUIDELINES**

THE FOLLOWING ARE MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR DAY CARE CENTER OCCUPANCIES. THE KAUFMAN COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE UTILIZES NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) 101 LIFE SAFETY CODE AS IT'S STANDARD. **THE ENFORCEMENT OF THESE STANDARDS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION AS PRESCRIBED IN TITLE II, SECTION 352.019 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE.**

***NOTE:** This list is not all inclusive of potential hazards; this list is intended to allow owner/management to correct some commonly found hazards.*

1. In the case of fire or danger of fire or explosion, the center's first responsibility is to evacuate the children to a designated safe area.
 - a. The center shall supervise children until the fire department determines the building is safe to re-enter or until the children are picked up by their families.
 - b. The center shall contact the fire department in case of fire or danger of fire, explosion, toxic fume, or other chemical release.
2. Emergency Evacuation:
 - a. The center shall have emergency evacuation and relocation plans posted in each room the clients use. The plan shall show two exit paths from each room.
 - b. The center shall practice a fire drill every month. A written Fire Drill Record shall be kept and produced at the request of the Fire Inspector showing the date and time of the fire drill. All members of the care facility shall be proficient in the expedition of the plan.
 - c. The center shall ensure that all clients and staff are able to exit safely from the building within three minutes in an emergency.
3. A center shall not provide childcare for children under the age of 7 on any level above or below the ground floor.
4. Exit Ways/Exit Doors:
 - a. A center shall have at least two exits to the outside located in distant parts of the building. An exit through a kitchen or other hazardous area cannot be one of the required exits unless specifically approved in writing by the Fire Marshal.
 - b. Clients shall be able to open the doors easily from inside the center.
 - c. The center shall not have any locked doors between rooms while children are present.
 - d. Doors opening into exit ways shall be installed so as to not to project more than 7 inches into the exit passageway width.
 - e. Exit ways shall be so constructed as to eliminate all dead ends.
 - f. All exit doors shall open in the direction of egress and be a minimum of 32 inches in width.
 - g. The travel distance between any room door intended as an exit access and an exit shall not exceed 100 feet. Travel distance from any point in the room and an exit shall not exceed 150 feet.
 - h. All exits and exit ways shall be clear of obstructions.
 - i. All exits and exit ways shall be marked with appropriate exit lights to clearly indicate direction of travel and exit doors.
 - j. Lighting for all exit ways and illuminated exit signs shall be provided on a separate electrical circuit, according to requirements of the National Electrical Code.
 - k. The exit ways shall be illuminated at all times, and at all points including angles and intersections of corridors and passageways, stairways, landings of stairs and exit doors to values of not less than 1.0 foot candle power measured at the floor.
 - l. Facilities shall have all approved fire exit doors equipped with panic hardware.

m. Every room or space normally subject to client occupancy, other than bathrooms, shall have not less than one outside window for emergency rescue that complies with the following:

i. Operable from inside without use of tools, opening not less than 20 inches in width, 24 inches in height and 5.7 feet in area.

ii. Bottom of opening shall not be more than 44 inches above floor.

Exceptions: Approved sprinkler system or exit door leading directly to outside.

Existing facilities may be permitted to continue in service.

5. Facilities Having Gas Inside Building:

a. If the center has gas appliances, the center shall ensure that the appliances have approved tubing and connections.

b. Open flame space heaters are prohibited. Space heaters shall be enclosed and have the seal of approval of a test laboratory. The center shall safeguard floor and wall furnace grates so that children do not have access to them.

c. Gas operated water heaters and space heaters designed to be vented, shall be properly vented to the outside atmosphere. Un-vented liquid or gas fuel heaters are prohibited.

d. All gas piping shall be tested at every two years, for gas leaks by a licensed and bonded plumber. The original test report, on the office stationery or letterhead of said plumber, including his license number, shall be presented to the Kaufman County Fire Marshal's Office. If the lease space is located in a multi-occupancy building in which there is gas to the building although there may not be gas to the day care center, a gas test is still required for that building.

e. Any unused gas jets shall be capped.

f. Gas Heating and Air-Conditioning units shall be checked annually by a service company and certified in writing to be safe. A copy of this certification shall be forwarded to the Kaufman County Fire Marshal's Office.

6. Appliances:

a. Exhaust vent on hood of kitchen range designed to vent to exterior shall terminate outside the building.

b. Water heaters shall be equipped with an approved pressure relief device.

c. All appliances shall be case grounded.

7. Fire Extinguishers:

a. There shall be at least one approved Class 2A rechargeable fire extinguisher for each 2,000 square feet of floor space.

b. There shall be at least one ABC, minimum 5 pound size, dry chemical rechargeable fire extinguisher properly mounted in the kitchen area.

c. All fire extinguishers shall be inspected and tagged by a state licensed service company at least annually.

8. Interior finish for all walls and ceilings shall be Class A or Class B.

9. Electrical:

All electrical wiring and equipment installed shall be in accordance with NFPA 70, National Electrical Code.

New facilities shall provide and forward written documentation to the Kaufman County Fire Marshal's Office.

Existing installations may be permitted to continue in service.

We recommend a licensed electrician be used.

10. Safety plugs shall be in place in all unused electrical outlets in areas used by children.

11. Trash in kitchen shall be kept in closed metal containers.

12. Good housekeeping habits shall be maintained. Efficient and timely waste removal shall be practiced and accumulation of combustible material shall be kept to a minimum.

13. Fire Alarm System:

a. Day Care occupancies, other than day care occupancies housed in one room or open space, shall be provided with a fire alarm system.

b. Fire alarm system must be installed by a licensed installation company in accordance with NFPA 101, 72 and 70.

c. Fire alarm system shall have interconnected smoke detectors and pull stations which are connected to an alarm panel. This system must be checked annually by a licensed alarm company.

14. Burglar bars will **not** be permitted on exits in such a manner to restrict egress.

15. All sleeping mats, exercise mats, or other such items shall be covered with materials which are flame retardant and are non-toxic when burned and documentation may be required
Flame Retardant - refers to materials, usually decorative, which due to chemical treatment or inherent properties do not ignite readily or propagate flaming under small to moderate exposure. It is the preferable term to denote chemicals, processes, paints, or coatings used for the treatment of such materials as fabrics, foliage, Christmas trees and similar items in the class of decorations or furnishings. Flame retardant denotes a lower degree of resistance than fire retardant.

16. No dead bolt locks will be permitted on approved exits with the exception of the primary entrance to the facility.

17. Approved fire inspections will be **VOID** if alterations are made which affect the classrooms, exits and/or increase the number of licensed clients.

18. No flammable liquids are to be kept in the facility.

19. No more than 20% of walls and ceiling space will be covered with artwork and teaching materials.

20. Install latch device on attic door(s).

21. All day care centers are required to have one operable flashlight in each and every room occupied by children. If a day care center provides night-time care, battery back-up lighting and operable flashlights located at each exit are required.

22. Facility address shall be easily visible from roadway.

NOTE: All facilities should be in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) where applicable.