

 **Guidelines**



The California Child Day Care Facilities Act is the law that governs state health, safety, and licensing requirements of all child care facilities, including family child care homes. The statute pertaining to the fire safety standards for “Large Family Day Care Homes” can be found in the Health & Safety Code 1597.46. 1. Large Family Day Cares are allowed in single- family dwellings, apartments, condos, townhouses, duplexes, and all other multi-family buildings.

The following are the minimum items required during the fire inspection.

Please review **ALL** requirements thoroughly before inspection occurs.

1. **Address** has to be visible from the street; we recommend for the numbers to be either self-luminous or to be installed under a light. [Click here for the Addressing Standard](#)
2. **Pull station and Bell/horn strobe:** At least one manual fire alarm device at a location approved by the authority having jurisdiction. (CFC 907.2.6.4); typically, within 5 feet from the main entrance. **It has to be hardwired into the main electricity to house.**

The device shall:

- Actuate a signal which shall be audible throughout the space used for the day care at a minimum level of 15dB above ambient noise

- level. When pull station is pulled the horn/bell will ring/sound.
- Need not be interconnected to any other fire alarm device, have a control panel or be electrically supervised or provided with emergency power.
 - Be attached to the structure and may be of any type acceptable to the enforcing agency, provided that such devices are listed and approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
 - Note: Pull station and audio/visual device are hardwired through residence electricity. Devices plugged into electrical outlets and or battery operated are not allowed.
 - No building permit shall be required to install a fire alarm device in a single-family home.

Example of a manual pull station and horn strobe:



Contact an electrician to have devices installed. Ensure prior to inspection that licensee is familiar with actuating devices.

3. **Fire Extinguisher:** one 2A-10BC Portable fire extinguisher (CBC 455.4). Installed between 3-5 feet from floor level (top of the extinguisher). Extinguisher shall be visible and accessible at all times. Extinguisher shall be serviced by a certified fire extinguisher company even if extinguisher was just purchased. Listed Fire Extinguisher Companies to service fire extinguishers: [Fire Extinguisher Vendors](#)

Example of a 2A-10BC Portable Fire Extinguisher:



4. **Smoke Alarms:** Smoke alarms shall be provided in all rooms used for day care purposes with the exception of the kitchen. Smoke alarms will be tested for functionality at time of inspection.
5. **Carbon Monoxide Detector:** One single station carbon monoxide detector is required in the facility (day care). A “plug-in” carbon monoxide detector is acceptable. Carbon monoxide detector will be tested for functionality at time of inspection.
6. **Exits:** Every story within the large family day-care home shall be provided with two exits that are remotely located from each other. (CBC 1006.2.2.7)
7. **Door Hardware:** Self-releasing, single action, no knowledge (when lever is pulled the lock releases automatically without having to unlock it manually) is required for all areas used for day care purposes including front door. Sliding door hardware is ok. [Click here for Approved Door Hardware](#)
 - This type of hardware shall be provided at front door, and any room used by children. For example: bathroom, bedrooms used for napping
 - Screen door in front of doors, shall not be equipped with any locking hardware – deadbolts are not permitted.
8. **Garages:** Cannot be used for a day care unless they have been permitted to be used as an occupied space. Typically, garages are used to park vehicles, contain storage, water heaters, HVAC, and washers and dryers; all which could be an inherent hazard to the children if used as a play area. Since the garage is not considered a habitable area of the home and is not considered as part of the square footage of the home, the garage shall not be utilized as part

of the family day care.

- **Garage door** shall be 20-minute fire rated, be self-closing, self-latching, and equipped with gasket.

9. **Special Hazards:** Gas fired water heater or furnace shall be protected (inaccessible to children). (CBC 455.7). Remove all combustible materials like paper, clothing, and plastics away from heater and maintain 36” clearance in front and around the water heater.

10. Fence: Doors that lead to a fenced-in backyard or other confined space shall not count as an exit unless it is in compliance with CBC 1009.7 for exterior areas for assisted rescue and CBC 1028.5 for exit discharge. Gate door shall be openable from the inside without special knowledge. A string can be installed on the lever to allow ease of opening gate

To schedule a pre-inspection, [click here for the Pre-Inspection Application](#). For submitting the pre-inspection request, please use the two procedure guides listed: [Creating an Account](#) and [Submitting a Permit Application](#)