



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
1901 SOUTH ALAMO STREET
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78204
(210) 207-8410 FAX: (210) 207-7949

GUIDELINES FOR CHILD CARE HOMES (Not Childcare Facility)

Revised 7/09

Please note that this guideline is for child care facilities located in a residence and considered a CHILDCARE HOME as defined by the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

1. **Address** (2006 IFC Section 505.1)
 - a. Clearly posted on the front of the building and visible from the street.
 - b. The color of the numbers/letters must contrast with the background.

 2. **Exits** (2006 IFC Section 1008.1.9, TDFPS)
 - a. At least two exits located in distant parts of the home (*Subchapter W, Fire Safety and Emergency Practices Division 2, Emergency Evacuation and Relocation.*)
 - b. You must be able to immediately open any locked door used as an exit.
 - c. Doors that are blocked may not be used as an exit.
 - d. No exit through a kitchen, storage, or hazardous area will be permitted

 3. **Emergency Lighting**
 - a. A battery powered source of emergency lighting must be readily accessible in case of electrical failure (*TDFPS Subchapter W, Fire Safety and Emergency Practices, Division 2, Emergency Evacuation and Relocation*)

 4. **Windows**
 - a. No burglar bars (exception – approved systems)
- Note: The following rescue window requirements apply to daycare facilities located in group “R” occupancies (residential homes).
1. All window sills must be 44 inches or lower, measured from the floor. (*IFC Section 1026.3*)
 2. Must have a rescue window at least 20 inches in width and at least 24 inches in height and 5.7 sq. foot area. (*IFC Section 1026.2.1*)
EXCEPTION: Rooms with a door directly to the exterior (*IFC Section 1026.1 exceptions*)
5. **Fire Alarm System**
 - a. Monitored Fire Alarm System is not needed
 - b. Working smoke detection system is required. Individual electric hardwired or battery operated smoke detectors located in each room used by children. (*TDFPS Subchapter W, Fire Safety and Emergency Practices Division 3, Fire Extinguisher and Smoke Detection Systems*)



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
1901 SOUTH ALAMO STREET
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78204
(210) 207-8410 FAX: (210) 207-7949

6. Fire Sprinkler System

- a. Not required for Child Care Homes.
- b. If one is installed in the home, it must be maintained and inspected annually.

7. Evacuation and Safety Plans (*IFC Section 404, TDFPS Subchapter W, Fire Safety and Emergency Practices, Division 2, Emergency Evacuation and Relocation*)

- a. Required to be on file and maintained.
- b. Complete safety and evacuation plan reviewed annually and updated as needed
- c. Complete plan available for review by the fire code official upon request.
- d. Evacuation diagram is not required to be posted, but one must be available if a substitute caregiver is assigned.

8. Emergency Evacuation Drills (*TDFPS Subchapter W, Fire Safety and Emergency Practices, Division 2, Emergency Evacuation and Relocation*)

- a. Monthly fire drill must be conducted
- b. Severe weather drill must be conducted every six months.

9. Smoke Detectors (*TDFPS Sec 747*)

- a. Required in all child care homes in every room used by children. Detectors may be battery operated or hardwired. (*Section 747.5111 Subchapter W, Division 3 Fire Extinguishing and Smoke Detection Systems, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services*)

10. Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors (*Subchapter W, Fire Safety and Emergency Practices Division 6, Carbon Monoxide Detection Systems*)

- a. Required on every level of the home
- b. May be hardwired or battery operated.

11. Gas Test (Texas Department of Family and Protective Services requirement)

- a. Not required for child care homes

12. Fire Extinguishers (*IFC Section 906, TDFPS*)

- a. One (1) 2A10BC extinguisher for each 3,000 sq. ft.
 1. Travel distance to extinguisher not to exceed 75 feet.
- b. OR One (1) 3A40BC (*Subchapter W, Division 3 Fire Extinguishing and Smoke Detection Systems, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services*)

13. Electrical

- a. Covers for electrical outlets that are accessible to children under age 5. (*Texas Department of Family and Protective Services requirement*)



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
1901 SOUTH ALAMO STREET
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78204
(210) 207-8410 FAX: (210) 207-7949

- b. Extension cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring and must not be affixed to structures. They can be used only for portable items. Extension cords must not extend through ceilings, floors, or under doors or floor coverings (carpet, rugs, etc.) (*IFC Section 605.5*)

14. Water Heater

- a. Vented to the exterior
- b. In an approved enclosure
- c. Pressure relief valve directed properly

Note: This list is not inclusive of all possible requirements and is intended to serve only as a guideline. Check with the Fire Prevention Division or your Fire Inspector if you have any questions.

CMM 7/09