

Care Home Occupancy Fire Inspection

Guidelines: Assisted Living, Independent Living, Residential and Long-Term Care

Important Notice

Certain types of care home occupancies have patients who are incapable of self-preservation, patients who require additional specialized security measures to protect themselves and patients who require security measures from the outside world. As an owner or owner's authorized agent, it is your responsibility to have a clear, well-communicated and documented emergency plan in place for the facility. All staff members should be trained in emergency procedures, including evacuation procedures and the use of portable fire extinguishers.

Common Fire Service Requirements

- Address must be visible from the road and lane, free from foliage, trees, etc. and in a contrasting colour.
- Accessibility: Ensure that all evacuation routes and exits are easily accessible and free from obstructions. This includes fire lanes, fire department connections and fire hydrants.
- Compressed gases must be held in a secure storage area.
- Documentation: Be prepared to present your fire drill log, evacuation plan, generator testing log and fire alarm and life safety system documentation to your fire inspector.
- Exit signage must be visible and always remain illuminated while the building is occupied.
- Emergency lighting must be operational, with no visible damage, aimed in the proper direction, and serviced and tagged annually by a certified technician.
- Exit passageways must not be blocked.
- Exit doors and door hardware are in working order.
- Egress: be prepared to demonstrate your facility's *Access-Controlled Egress* or *Delayed Egress* to your Fire Inspector.
- Electrical/mechanical rooms must be clearly identified.
- Electrical safety: Ensure that all electrical systems and appliances in the facility are regularly inspected and maintained to prevent electrical fires.
- Electrical panels, sprinkler control valves, and all other electrical and mechanical appliances must be easily accessible and kept clear of storage.
- Fire alarm systems must have a working A/C power-on bulb and be in good working condition with no audible or visual damage. Must have a current service tag (within the last 12 months) and an up-to-date logbook.
- Fire doors must not be blocked or wedged open, including stairwell doors. Fire doors must self-close and latch properly to maintain fire separation.
- Fire separations must have no holes or openings that compromise their purpose.
- Garbage disposal containers must have tight-fitting lids and be kept in a fire-separated room. In garbage rooms, combustible materials should not be allowed to accumulate, and the room should be empty, except for the garbage container itself.
- Laundry rooms: keep the rear of machines free of dust and lint. Regularly clean lint traps. Ensure electrical connections are not a fire hazard. Doors are to be kept closed with a self-closing device.
- 'No smoking' signs must be posted in hazardous areas.
- Storage areas must be kept free of excessive clutter, with aisle widths of at least 36 inches in larger rooms.
- The permanent use of extension cords is not permitted.



WEST VANCOUVER FIRE & RESCUE

760 16th Street
West Vancouver BC V7V 3T3
Fire Prevention Officer: 604-925-7392
fireprevention@westvancouver.ca

