

FIRE SAFETY IS A STATE OF MIND!!

Adult homes want their facilities to be as safe as possible for their residents, their staff, and themselves. However, unless they are in the Fire Safety business, many people are not aware of the ways to keep their facilities fire safe.

The Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office has developed these informational brochures so our clients may learn some of the tips for fire safety. These tips are based on the most common Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code infractions we find in Adult residential facilities.

10 HOT FIRE SAFETY TIPS!!

1. **Exits:** Exit doors, stairways and corridors are provided so that people using the facility have ready access to exit the building in the event of an emergency. Most often, but not always, these exit ways are marked with exit signs. Often, but not always, these doors are operated by panic type hardware, that a person merely has to push to open the door.

Furniture or anything that could keep people from getting to an exit in normal lighting, darkness, or smoky conditions must never obstruct exit access, even temporarily. Also exit doors must never be locked from the inside to prevent exiting the building.

2. **Emergency Lighting:** Many adult home facilities have emergency lighting that will provide *temporary* lighting in the event of power failure. This lighting is not designed to allow normal operations during a power failure but only minimal lighting for up to 90 minutes to allow safe evacuation of the building.

At least annually the batteries must be tested for 60 to 90 minutes depending on when the building was built.

Some facilities have emergency generators, which require regular testing in accordance with NFPA 110 or 111.

3. **Illuminated Exit Signs:** Most Adult Care facilities have illuminated exit signs at each required exit door. The lights in these fixtures must be operating at all times. If these fixtures have battery back up they must be tested as required for emergency lighting above.

4. **Extension Cords:** Extension cords are for temporary use of a portable appliance *only*. Temporary use includes holiday lighting and other uses. Extension cords are never to be run through doors, windows, walls, ceilings or under rugs or carpeting. Cords should be in good condition and same size or larger than the cord of the appliance. If the cords from an appliance do not reach an outlet, a permanent outlet should be added to supply that appliance.

5. **Multi-Plug Adapters:** Multi-plug adapters are designed to allow more than one cord to be plugged into a single outlet. Only approved multi-plug adapters with over-current protection are allowed in adult home facilities. Relocatable power taps shall be connected to a permanently installed outlet. If additional outlets are needed, permanent outlets should be provided. This type

of work should only be done by a certified electrician.

6. **Fire Alarm:** Many adult homes have a fire alarm system. These systems are required to have an annual maintenance inspection and testing by a qualified fire alarm technician. In adult home facilities that have battery-operated smoke alarms, staff should test the smoke alarms monthly to ensure continued operation and keep a log of those tests.

7. **Fire Drills:** Most adult homes are use group I (institutional) facilities and are required to hold fire drills on a regular basis. The drills must be held at least one per shift per quarter if they are an I-2. If the facility is an I-1, the requirement is six times per year, two times per year or each shift. 12 drills are required in the first year.

8. **Sprinkler Systems:** If your facility has a sprinkler system, maintenance, testing and inspections are to be performed on a quarterly basis by a qualified inspector.

9. **Fire Extinguishers:** Annual service, inspection and maintenance is required by NFPA 10. Qualified inspectors perform this maintenance. Monthly visual inspection and proper documentation is required for every fire extinguisher. Report any broken, missing or expelled fire extinguishers for repair or replacement.

10. **Records:** Written records of all fire drills, fire alarm tests, sprinkler tests, fire extinguisher maintenance and inspection reports are to be maintained for review.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT THE REGIONAL STATE
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http://www.vafire.com/state_fire_marshall/

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TIPS

**FOR RESIDENTIAL ADULT CARE
FACILITIES**

Based on the
Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code



Presented by

**COMMONWEALTH OF
VIRGINIA
THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S
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