



Duncanville Fire Department

“Protecting Lives and Property with Pride and Tradition”

MINIMUM DAY CARE REQUIREMENTS

1. Addressable, monitored fire alarm system. Contact a State of Texas licensed fire alarm company for installations, modifications or service.
2. Fire sprinklers are required for Group I **Child Care** Facilities (providing care for children less than 2 ½ years old). *Day Care* Facilities providing care for children older than 2 ½ may not need to sprinkle unless required by the State of Texas.
3. Gas inspections are required prior to occupancy and on a bi-annual basis by a licensed plumber if the building uses natural gas or propane. A failing gas inspection may cause the center to be closed until repairs are made. A written report from the company shall be provided and filed at the day care and available for inspections.
4. In addition to the gas inspection, all heaters in the facility shall be serviced prior to occupancy and **annually** by a licensed company. A written report shall be provided and filed at the day care and available for inspection.
5. Address numbers shall be installed in a contrasting color to the building color scheme on the front and rear of the building. Numbers shall be a minimum of 6 inches in height, Arabic numerals and have a stroke width of 0.5 inches.
6. Emergency and exit lights with battery backup shall be installed and operational prior to occupancy. Contact Building Inspections (972) 780-5040 for locations.
7. Fire extinguishers shall be installed in the building as well as vehicles transporting children per NFPA 10 (min. size is 5lb ABC) by a licensed extinguisher company.
8. All exit doors shall be equipped with approved/listed panic hardware prior to occupancy. Additional fire protection is required for restricted egress/access doors (electronic or mag locks).
9. The facility shall have a fire evacuation plan in place prior to occupancy. The plan should include 2 safe routes of exit from the building. Plans/maps shall be posted in every room the children occupy. The plan should include an alternate site for relocation if your building is not safe to re-enter. The minimum safe distance is 50 feet from the exterior wall after exiting the building.
10. At least one Carbon Monoxide detector shall be installed per the State of Texas.
11. The facility shall conduct monthly fire drills and maintain records for not less than three years. The fire alarm shall be used for all fire drills. The alarm should put on test during the drill. New staff shall be trained immediately on fire procedures.
12. Fire lanes are required when any part of the building exceeds 150 feet from the main road. Fire prevention will provide marking/stripping requirements for you to forward to your contractor.
13. Obtain and post City of Duncanville Certificate of Occupancy. Duncanville Building Code Enforcement is located at 203 E. Wheatland.
14. Maintain 36-inch clear space in front of all electrical panels.
15. The facility shall have a tornado/severe weather plan in place prior to occupancy. An alternate location should be part of the plan in the event the building is not safe.

For additional information concerning the fire alarm plan submittal process, please contact the Duncanville Fire Prevention Office at (972) 780-5049 or (972) 780-5047.