



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

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

GUIDELINES FOR DAY CARE CENTERS

Revised 7/09

1. **Address** (2006 IFC Section 505.1)
 - a. Posted on the front of the building in at least 6 inch numbers 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)
 - a. Approved Panic Hardware needed for occupant load 50 or more.
 - b. Illuminated exit signs needed for each exit. Front door is exempt from the requirement if approved (IFC Section 1011.1)
 - c. No double-keyed dead bolt locks, slide locks, etc on any door
 - d. Two exits for each room or floor area when the occupant load is 10 or more (IFC Table 1015.1- "E" occupancy (a. Daycare))
 - e. No exit through a kitchen, storage, or hazardous area will be permitted
 - f. Exits must open in direction of travel for occupant load of 50 or more.
 - g. Exits, including the exit discharge, must be illuminated when the space is being occupied.

NOTE: To be considered a group "E" occupancy, rooms where children 2 ½ years old or less are cared for must be located on the level of exit discharge and have an exit door directly to the exterior.

3. **Emergency Lighting**
 - a. Required for corridors, stairways, and classroom areas with student occupancy.
Emergency lighting is also required for egress components in rooms and spaces having more than one exit. (IFC sections 1006.3, 1006.3.1, 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 a 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)



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5. **Fire Alarm System** (Approved Systems) NFPA 72
 - a. A manual fire alarm system is needed for occupant load 50 or greater if considered a Group "E" occupancy
 - b. A manual fire alarm system is needed if considered a Group "I-4" occupancy (occupant load over 100)

6. **Fire Sprinkler System**
 - a. Sprinkler system is required if facility is a group "I-4" occupancy (*IFC Section 903.2.5*)

7. **Evacuation and Safety Plans** (*IFC Section 404*)
 - a. Required to be maintained in both "E" and "I-4" occupancies.
 - 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

8. **Emergency Evacuation Drills** (*IFC Section 405*)
 - a. Monthly for "E" occupancy (occupant load 100 or less)
 - b. Quarterly for "I-4" occupancy (occupant load greater than 100)

9. **Smoke Detectors** (*TDFPS Sec 746*)
 - a. Required in all daycare facilities in every room used by children. Detectors may be battery operated or hardwired. (*Section 746.5311 Subchapter W, Division 3 Fire Extinguishing and Smoke Detection Systems, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services*)

10. **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors**
 - a. Required on every level of facility
 - b. May be hardwired or battery operated.

Exception: Exempted if located in a school that has facility standards adopted by the Commissioner of Education under Education Code, Sec 46.008 or standards adopted by the school board that are similar to Education Code Sec 46.008.

11. **Gas Test** (*Texas Department of Family and Protective Services requirement*)
 - a. Required every two years after the initial test (if Natural Gas is used)

12. **Fire Extinguishers** (*IFC Section 906*)
 - a. 2A10BC extinguisher for each 3,000 sq. ft.
 1. Travel distance to extinguisher not to exceed 75 feet.
 - b. Commercial type cooking equipment involving vegetable or animal oils and fats shall be provided with a type "K" extinguisher. (Any deep fat frying)



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1. Travel distance to type "K" extinguisher must not exceed 30 feet.

13. Electrical

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

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