



## Important Reminders:

- Ensure exit hallways, exit access and doorways are not cluttered or blocked.
- Do not store gasoline or gasoline appliances (weed-eaters, lawn mowers, etc.) in or under your home.
- Keep excessive clutter or combustible storage from your attic and home.
- Please check dryer vents to ensure they are not clogged or not crushed behind your dryer. It is best to use a metal/aluminum vent vs. the plastic type.
- Electrical panels are to be readily accessible at all times. Covers must be in place and closed at all times. Please cover open spaces in panels with electrical blanks and keep covers on receptacles and switches in the home. Avoid excessive use of unprotected drop cords.
- Please keep a three-foot clearance from all electrical/mechanical equipment. (water heaters, furnaces, etc.)
- Test your smoke detector each month, and unless it is a long-life lithium battery, replace the battery a minimum of once every six months or per manufacturer's recommendations.
- Open windows often to ensure they are operational.



**S.C. Department of Labor  
Licensing and Regulation**

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September 2007

# Fire Safety Regulations for South Carolina Foster Care Homes



**Based on:  
SCRR 71-8300.11 (F)  
South Carolina  
State Fire Marshal  
Regulations**



# Foster Home Guidelines and Regulations

## SCRR 71-8300.11(F)

Foster homes providing care, maintenance, and supervision for no more than six children, to include the natural or adopted children of the foster parent, shall be considered as a R-3 occupancy and comply with the following requirements:

International Fire Code (IFC) 2006 907.2.10.2

**Foster Homes** shall have a minimum of a battery operated single-station smoke alarm installed in all of the following locations:

1. **On the ceiling or wall outside of each separate sleeping area** in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.
2. **In each room used for sleeping purposes.**
3. **In each story within a dwelling unit**, including basements; but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided, that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.

Smoke detectors shall be mounted in accordance with manufacturer's requirements.

\*\* NFPA 72 (2007 edition) 10.4.6 -- Smoke Alarms greater than 10 years old are obsolete and shall be replaced. Replace all detectors that are greater than 10 years old.

b. As a minimum, one fire extinguisher with a minimum classification of 2A:10BC shall be located in the cooking area. Fire extinguishers shall be installed and maintained per NFPA 10.

\*\* Fire extinguisher(s) shall be mounted on a wall in an accessible location and not obscured from

view.

\*\* Fire extinguisher(s) shall be serviced annually by a S.C. licensed fire equipment dealer.

c. Each facility housing foster children shall have two independent means of escape as defined in NFPA 101, 2003 edition.

d. Heating devices

- i. All heating devices must be selected, used, and installed per the applicable NFPA standard, the manufacturer's recommendations, and listing conditions set by an approved testing laboratory;
- ii. Portable electric heaters may be used for emergencies and supplemental heating. Portable heaters in client areas shall be guarded to prevent burn injuries. The maximum exposed surface temperatures for portable electric heaters shall not exceed 68 degrees F for metallic parts and 108 degrees F for nonmetallic parts;
- iii. Unguarded open flame heaters may be used only during emergencies when electrical power is not available;
- iv. Unvented gas heaters shall have an operating oxygen depletion device and an operating safety shutoff device; and
- v. Fireplaces shall be equipped with fire screens, partitions, or other means to protect clients from burns.

\*\* Portable unvented kerosene heaters are prohibited per International Fire Code.

e. A fire plan describing what actions are to be taken by the family in the event of a fire must be developed, posted, and copies made available to the local fire department. This plan shall note the location of all crib infants.

\*\* Notation of 2 ways out, meeting place, locations

of fire extinguisher(s), and smoke Alarms are to be noted on fire plan. Please also **note the manufactured date of each Smoke Alarm.**

f. A fire drill shall be conducted every three months. Records of the drills shall be maintained on the premises for three years. The records shall give the date, time, and weather condition during the drill, number evacuated, description, and evaluation of the fire drill. A fire drill shall be conducted within twenty-four hours of the arrival of each new foster child. Fire drills shall include complete evacuation of all persons from the building.

g. All resident bedrooms shall have emergency egress openings per the IBC.

International Fire Code (IFC) 2006 Section 1026

\*\* Shall provide Bedroom window or door to outside with a minimum net clear opening of 5 square feet for ground level and 5.7 square feet for 2<sup>nd</sup> story or higher windows. The minimum net clear opening height dimension shall be 24 inches. The minimum net clear opening width dimension shall be 20 inches. Bottom of opening is not to be greater than 44 inches measured from the floor.

h. Foster homes with four or more infants shall comply with the requirements of 71-8300. 11B., Facilities with Infant Care, or meet the requirements of the IBC for I-4

**Please visit the  
S.C. Fire Marshal's Web site:**

**[www.llr.state.sc.us/firemarshal.asp](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/firemarshal.asp)**