

Fire Inspections Municipality of Anchorage



Fire inspections for facilities within the Municipality of Anchorage will be performed by the Anchorage Fire Department, Fire Prevention Unit. The Child Care Licensing Program will submit an 'Agency Request' to the Anchorage Fire Department once a complete application has been received from the applicant.

The cost of the initial inspection starts off at \$85.00. If re-inspections are required, additional costs will be assessed according to municipal ordinance 10.75.010. Refer to: Chapter 10.75 Inspection Fees.

The following is a list of some items that the Fire Inspector will be looking for in your child care facility. Please understand that additional items may be included in the inspection of your specific facility. The Child Care Licensing Program shall be informed of the required corrections and the timeframe in which to complete them.

1. The facility' address shall be visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background and shall be a minimum of 4 inches high and ½ inch wide.
2. All rooms or sleeping areas in the facility shall have a working smoke detector properly mounted within the rooms or hallway area. An additional smoke detector shall be located in the area immediately adjacent to the bedrooms. A smoke detector shall be required on each level including basements and cellars but not crawlspaces and uninhabitable attics.
3. A minimum of one carbon monoxide detector shall be installed on each level of the facility. All levels on which children sleep, must have a carbon monoxide detector installed in the immediate area of the sleeping quarters.
4. All bedrooms require a means of egress that leads directly to the exterior of the facility. This egress can be a door or a window. If it is a window, it must meet the minimum requirements outlined in the policy pertaining to overall net clear opening area.
5. Facilities providing care in a basement or above the first level shall have access to not less than two means of egress separated by a minimum of ½ the maximum overall diagonal of the area served. In a basement at least one exit or emergency escape opening shall discharge directly to the exterior of the building at or near grade level.
6. The path of exit/egress from a building shall be unobstructed. Hallways and passage(s) through intervening rooms shall not be cluttered with objects that obstruct a means of exit. The window opening shall not be obstructed; i.e. chest, dresser, other large objects. A permanently installed or placed step to aid in exiting out a window is acceptable.
7. Interior and exterior stairs which are enclosed with storage area shall have their walls and soffit protected with a minimum ½" X gypsum wall board. Reference: IBC 1009.5.3. There shall be no enclosed usable space under exterior exit stairways unless the space is completely enclosed in a 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction.

8. Facilities shall have a mounted 2A:10BC fire extinguisher (or larger) on each level of the facility within 75 feet of travel from all occupied areas. Fire extinguishers may be placed inside a cabinet or closet with proper signage. Extinguishers shall be placed between exit and potential hazard. Certification is required annually by a fire service technician. Extinguishers with a manufacture date one year or less are not required to be serviced and tagged. Refer to attachment: Fire Extinguisher Tagging and Maintenance Service. Extinguisher shall be mounted no higher than 5 feet at the top.
9. For all areas containing furnaces, boilers, or attached garages, there must be a fire-resistant, rated separation that is a minimum of 5/8" type X GWB. If the garage is used for child care and the furnace and hot water heater are located in the garage, then a protective barrier shall be placed such that the children cannot gain access to the appliances. All appliances shall have their separation distance to combustibles maintained at all times. If the appliances cannot be completely separated by a 1-hour Fire Rated separation and they receive any of their combustion air from the area then the area cannot be used for sleeping / napping purposes.
10. Flammable liquids and combustible material will be checked for proper storage both inside and outside the home. These items must be stored at least 10 feet away from the facility.
11. All wiring must be covered with approved covers. This includes electrical panels, electrical outlets, and lighting fixtures. All exposed wiring must be covered.
12. Multiple-plug adaptors/extension cords that are used in lieu of permanent wiring will be checked. They cannot be daisy chained together and they shall have overload current protection.
13. Evacuation Plans shall be posted in a conspicuous location. Evacuation Plans will be submitted with the Agency Inspection Request Form to the Anchorage Fire Department. Fire Safety and Evacuation plans will be evaluated. The plan shall include sheltering of the children during inclement weather, life safety strategy and procedures for notifying, relocating or evacuating occupants.
14. Emergency evacuation drills (fire drills) shall be conducted and logged, at least once each month on department-approved forms. Emergency fire evacuation drills may be conducted during the fire inspection. All evacuation drills are to include all children, staff, and household members present. Written record of all fire drills shall be kept on the premises.

Other items recommended by Fire Prevention:

1. A "grab-and-go" bag. This bag would include emergency record cards (or copies), vehicle keys if the vehicle is used to shelter children from the weather or to transport them to safety, emergency contact numbers, a flashlight, warm clothes and/or blankets adequate for children's use, and first aid supplies.
2. Have your furnace and hot water heaters inspected annually by a certified inspector.

Important Information to Know:

- *Fire safety inspections by the Anchorage Fire Department, Fire Prevention Unit, may be announced or unannounced (i.e. scheduled or unscheduled).*
- *The Anchorage Fire Department operates on its own fire safety schedule.*
- *Verification that your facility has been approved to operate will come directly to Child Care Licensing from the Anchorage Fire Department.*
- *Payment of fire inspections is your responsibility.*