



DALLAS FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Inspection & Life Safety Education
Fire Code Requirements for
Health Care Occupancies

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This checklist provides some of the basic regulations governing the operation of **Health Care Occupancies**. It is not possible to cover all regulations. If you have a particular question of concern, please telephone or FAX the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department. The initial inspection is conducted at no charge. There is no charge for the first reinspection. The second reinspection is subject to a \$100.00 fee, with all reinspections after the second, subject to a \$105.00 fee.

1. Permits

- A. A valid certificate of occupancy from Building Inspection is required.
- B. Permit must be obtained for welding and cutting operations, electronic locking devices, storage or use of flammable and combustible liquids, etc. Other permits such as limited access gates may be required. Call Dallas Fire-Rescue for more information.
- C. A permit from Building Inspection is required to install electronic locking devices. The devices must be tested and approved by Building Inspection and the Fire Marshal.

2. Exit Ways

- A. Doors must be unlocked and unblocked.
- B. Required width of an exit way must be unobstructed.
- C. Signs must be illuminated.
- D. Electronic locking devices must unlock automatically in the event of a fire alarm or power failure.

3. Fire Lanes and Access

- A. Properly marked and clear of obstructions.
- B. Limited access control gates installed across fire lanes must meet requirements of the Dallas Fire Code.

4. Fire Extinguishers

- A. Typically, one 2A-10BC extinguisher required for every 3,000 sq. ft. of floor space or within 75 feet of travel.
- B. Mounted in conspicuous accessible locations.
- C. Inspected for proper maintenance annually by licensed individuals.
- D. Must be recharged following use.

5. Fire Alarm/Detection Systems

- A. Installed in accordance with Chapter 9 of the Dallas Fire Code.
- B. Systems installed, maintained, and approved prior to June 16, 2007 are considered to be in compliance with the Dallas Fire Code.
- C. Maintained in an operative condition at all times and replaced or repaired when defective. Immediately notify Dallas Fire-Rescue at 214-670-4319 if fire alarm system becomes non-operational.
- D. Written operating instructions provided and maintained at an approved location.
- E. Manual alarms and smoke alarms should be tested at least annually, and/or after modification.

6. Sprinkler Systems

- A. Maintained in approved working condition. Test at least annually. Immediately notify Dallas Fire-Rescue at 214-670-4319 if sprinkler system becomes non-operational.
- B. Identify controls, drains, and test control valves with approved signage.
- C. Access to valves and/or fire department connections cannot be obstructed.
- D. A sprinkler wrench must be provided. Spare sprinkler heads of the same types and ratings installed in the building must be provided for a system as follows:
 - (1) Less than 300 system heads, a minimum of 6 spare heads.

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(2) 300 to 1000 system heads, a minimum of 12 spare heads.

(3) Over 1,000 system heads, a minimum of 24 spare heads.

E. Maintain an 18-inch clearance between sprinkler heads and storage.

7. Signage

A. Post a sign in each elevator lobby stating "IN FIRE EMERGENCY, DO NOT USE ELEVATOR. USE EXIT STAIRS." Must include a diagram showing a path to the exits. (Signs shall have letters a minimum of ½ inch high.)

B. Post a sign in each elevator lobby stating, "Fire emergency plan available for review from the fire safety director".

C. Post a sign in each stairwell showing floor number, stairwell number, roof access or no roof access, and stairwell range.

D. Post "No Smoking—Oxygen In Use" signs in applicable rooms.

E. Post a sign in each patient room stating, "Any person who causes the accidental burning of any part of this building or its contents is subject to a fine of \$2,000. City of Dallas Fire Code".

8. Flammable Liquids

A. Liquids with a flashpoint below 100 degrees Fahrenheit are prohibited for general cleaning purposes.

B. Storage must be in approved containers and must not exceed allowable quantities.

C. Prohibit sources of ignition in storage and use areas.

9. Kitchens

A. Fire-extinguishing systems must be installed to protect commercial cooking equipment that produces grease-laden vapors.

B. If vent hood has a fire-extinguishing system, one Class K extinguisher must be provided within 30 feet.

C. Fire-extinguishing systems must be serviced at least every 6 months and after activation.

D. Maintain stove and vent hoods free of grease.

10. Laundry Areas

A. Clothes dryers must be vented to the outside.

B. Remove accumulation of lint as necessary.

C. Chute doors must be self-closing and latching.

11. Miscellaneous

A. Conduct fire drills—one per shift per quarter.

B. Develop an approved fire safety and evacuation plan.

C. Provide a public safety key box (Knox Box) with current building keys inside. (Required in high-rise buildings; optional in others.)

D. Maintain elevator recall in proper working order.

E. Remove combustible trash daily.

F. Combustible decorations must be flameproof/flame retardant.

G. Maintain a 24-inch clearance between storage and ceiling.

H. Provide cover plates for all electrical panels, outlets, boxes, and junctions.

I. Extension cords shall not be utilized in place of permanent wiring.

J. Post a correct address visible from the street. In complexes with multiple buildings, each building must be designated.

K. Secure compressed gas cylinders in an upright position.

L. Gas-fired appliances must be properly vented to the outside, have approved flex-type connections, and have cut-off valves.

M. Radioactive materials certificate required if these materials are used in the facility.