



Large Family Day-Cares

We have prepared this guide so that you may easily and smoothly receive approval from the Santee Fire Department. We will outline the minimum, state-required, fire and life safety requirements for operating a large family daycare facility. For more information on these requirements, please refer to Section 455 of the current California Building Code, which specifically address Large Family Day-Care Homes.

The Approval Process

1. Once you have submitted your application to Community Care Licensing, an evaluator will send us a Fire Safety Inspection Request form (STD 850 form). This will have your facility's information, contact information, and number and type of clients on it. We will then determine what codes apply to the facility based on the information provided and schedule an inspection within 30 days of receiving the request.
2. Once we arrive to perform the fire safety inspection, we must either approve or deny the application based on whether the home complies with the current California Fire and Building Codes. The California Building Code section pertaining to large family daycares can be found by [clicking this link](#).
 - a. At the end of this guide there is a section on how to prepare for the fire safety inspection.
3. After the inspection we will contact the evaluator and, depending on the results of the inspection, they will then reach out to you to complete the process.

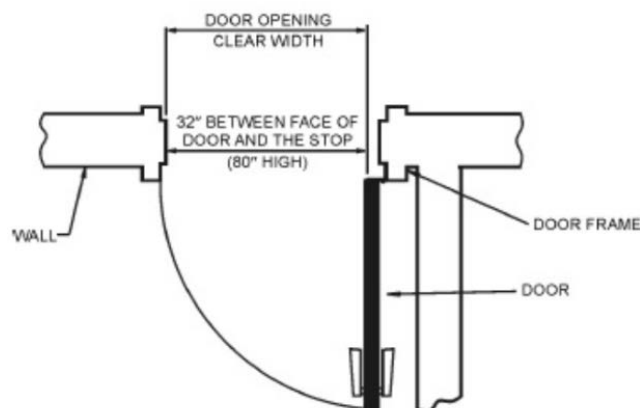
Helpful Definitions

- Large Family Day-Care Home: A provider's own home which is licensed to provide day care for periods less than 24 hours per day for 9-14 persons, including children under the age of 10 years who reside at the home.

Requirements

Exiting

A large family day-care home must have two exits which are remotely located from each other. Those two exits must be able to open with at least 32 inches of clear width. A manually operated horizontal sliding door may be used as one of the two required exits.





Regarding two-story or more homes, rooms used for day-care purposes shall not be located above the first story (ground level). There is an exception to this, but the home must have an automatic fire sprinkler system and there must be an exterior exit from the second story so that there is an additional exit from the second story other than the main staircase. Because most homes do not have this feature large family day-care homes are limited to childcare rooms on the first floor.

Smoke Alarms

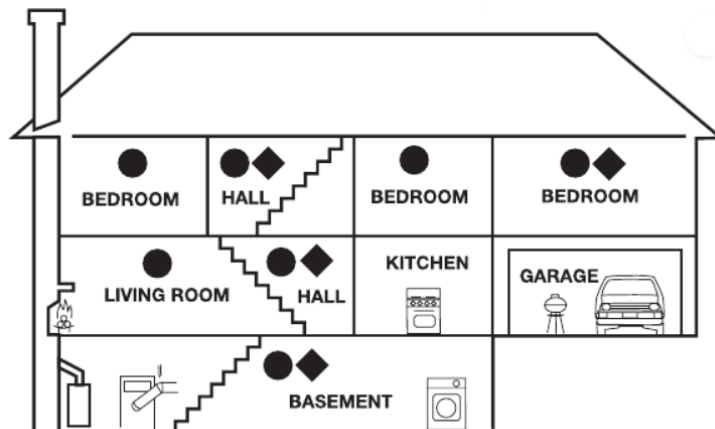
There must be working smoke alarms, under ten years of age, installed in the following locations:

1. In each bedroom/sleeping area
2. In the room or space leading to each separate bedroom/sleeping area in the home (for example, in the hallway, directly outside of the bedrooms)
3. On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and finished attics

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

There must be working carbon monoxide alarms, under ten years of age, installed in the following locations:

1. In the room or space leading to each separate bedroom/sleeping area in the home (for example, in the hallway, directly outside of the bedrooms)
2. On every occupiable level, including basements.
3. In every bedroom or sleeping area where there is a fireplace or other fuel-burning appliance located within the space or an attached bathroom.



KEY:

- SMOKE ALARMS
- ◆ CO ALARMS
- ◆ BOTH, OR COMBINATION SMOKE/CO ALARMS



Fire Extinguisher(s)

There must be a centrally located fire extinguisher, mounted at arm height, and have been either recently serviced with a service tag on it or recently purchased with a provided receipt for proof of purchase. This fire extinguisher must have a 2A:10B:C rating.

Fire Alarm Device

Note: a building permit is required

There must be one manual initiating device (AKA a pull station) connected to a notification device (AKA bell, horn, or other notification device). The initiating device and the notification device must be on the approved list of Building Materials on the California State Fire Marshal's website. These are very specific devices and likely not available for purchase at a local hardware store or online retailer. Please read the instructions below to assure you are getting a listed product that will be acceptable.

Please contact a licensed electrician or fire alarm contractor to assist with the installation. The initiating device must be installed between 42 and 48 inches off the floor, at arm height, in a central location in the home. Upon activation, the sound of the alarm signal must be loud enough to be clearly heard throughout the home. The fire alarm device may be a standalone system and is not required to be interconnected to any other alarm or detection device in the home unless those devices are being used to sound the alarm signal for the fire alarm (like a combination fire/burglar alarm system).



Santee Fire Department Guideline

Rev. 1/25
Large Family Day-Cares

For finding acceptable devices

1. Go to the Office of the State Fire Marshal’s [Building Materials Listings webpage](#).
2. Under “Category,” click the dropdown menu and select “7135 – AUDIBLE DEVICES.” These are the only allowable devices to be used for notification. This is the top device in the picture below.
3. Under “Category,” again, click the dropdown menu and select “7150 – Fire Alarm Pull Boxes.” These are the only allowable devices to be used for initiation. This is the bottom device in the picture below.

When the initiating and notification device are powered by the home’s 120V electrical wiring (tied directly into the wall outlet), the connection must be **permitted, inspected, and approved by the Santee Building Department through an Electrical Permit**. Your electrician will need to go to the [Santee Licensing Portal](#) at, santeeportal.org, to apply for an Electrical Permit.



The combinations of alarm initiating and notification devices shown above are examples only and are not intended to endorse any particular brand, model, or configuration. Other devices may be acceptable provided they are listed by the California State Fire Marshal as components of a residential fire alarm system, a commercial fire alarm system, or a combination residential fire and burglar alarm system.



Fire Safety Inspection Preparation Checklist

Outside:

- The address of the home is easily seen from the street and stands out – at least 4-inch-high lettering for address numbers.
- Gates that are in the path of egress (escape) from the back door to the front yard are not locked. They must be able to be opened without the use of a key to facilitate quick exiting.

Inside:

- The initiating and notification devices have been permitted by the Santee Building Department, installed in a central location in the home, and working properly.
- There are at least two exits, remotely apart from each other and provide a clear width of at least 32 inches of clear width.
- Furniture like beds, tables, and other large items are in place.
- No outstanding electrical work like uncovered wall outlets are present.
- A fire extinguisher is mounted on a bracket at arm-height (around 4 feet off the ground) in a central location like a living room, hallway, or foyer.
- Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are working, located in the areas outlined above, and are under ten years old.
- The door in-between the garage and the interior of the home is either solid wood, solid metal, or honeycomb core steel. It must not be less than 1 and 3/8 inches thick and be fire-rated for at least 20 minutes. The door must also close on its own and latch.
- The hot water heater has nothing near it to prevent it from igniting stored items. Guards are placed around the water heater to prevent children from touching it.