

Important Reminders:

- ◇ Make sure 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 out of your attic and home.
- ◇ Check clothes dryer vents to make sure they are not clogged or not crushed behind your dryer. It is best to use a metal/aluminum vent rather than the plastic type vent. (See the dryer manufacturers' instructions)
- ◇ Electrical panels are to be readily accessible at all times. Covers must be in place and closed at all times. Cover open spaces in panels with electrical blanks and keep covers on receptacles and switches in the home. Avoid the use of multi-plugged drop cords.
- ◇ Keep a three-foot clearance from all electrical/mechanical equipment (water heaters, furnaces, etc.)
- ◇ Test your smoke detector each month. Replace the battery a minimum of once every six months or per manufacturer's recommendations unless it is a long-life lithium battery.
- ◇ Open windows often to make sure they work.

Contact Information

Group Child Care Homes contact:

Central Office

2638 Two Notch Road, Suite 217
Columbia, SC 29204
803-898-9020
1-800-556-7445

Region 1 (Upstate)

P.O. Box 5616
Greenville, SC 29606-5616
864-250-5576
1-800-637-8550

Region Two (Midlands)

2638 Two Notch Road, Suite 217
Columbia, SC 29204
803-898-9001
1-888-202-1469

Region Three (Low Country)

3346 Rivers Avenue, Suite D-1
North Charleston, SC 29405
843-953-9780
1-800-260-0211

Region Four (Pee Dee/Grand Strand)

BTC-037
181 East Evans Street
Florence, SC 29506
843-661-6623
1-800-464-9138

Website: www.state.sc.us/dss/childcare

**South Carolina
Child Care Licensing
Fire and Life Safety**



Health. Safety. Supervision.

**Group
Child Care
Home**

**Fire Safety
Guide**



DSS

Serving Children and Families

Required for Group Child Care Homes

Group Child Care Homes are limited to less than 24 hour care. Group Child Care Homes are also limited to the age and number of children listed on the license but no more than 12 children.

Smoke Alarms

A battery operated single-station smoke alarm must be installed in all of the following locations:

1. On the ceiling or wall outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of rooms used for sleeping.
2. In each room used for sleeping purposes.
3. In each story within the home, including basements, but not including crawl spaces and unlivable attics.
4. In homes with two levels that are open to each other without a door, the smoke alarm is required on the highest level. If a door is provided, a smoke alarm is required on both levels

Note: Smoke alarms must be connected to each other in newer homes.

- ◇ Smoke alarms shall be mounted in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements.
- ◇ Smoke alarms older than 10 years must be replaced.

Portable Fire Extinguisher

At least one fire extinguisher with a minimum classification of 2A:10BC must be located in the cooking area. Fire extinguishers shall be

installed and maintained per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Pamphlet 10.

- ◇ Fire extinguisher(s) shall be installed between 4 inches and 5 feet above the floor in an accessible location and not hidden or blocked from view. Do not put in cabinet or closet.
- ◇ Fire extinguisher(s) shall be serviced annually by a SC licensed fire equipment dealer.
- ◇ Fire Extinguishers shall be inspected monthly, by provider or designee, and documented on the tag attached to the fire extinguisher.

Heating devices

All heating devices must be selected, used, and installed as per the applicable codes, the manufacturer's recommendations, and listing conditions set by an approved testing laboratory.

- ◇ Heaters used in children's areas shall be guarded to prevent burn injuries.
- ◇ Unvented gas heaters shall have an operating oxygen depletion device and an operating safety shutoff device.
- ◇ **Portable unvented kerosene heaters are prohibited and must not be used.**

Fire Escape Plan

A fire plan describing what actions are to be taken by the family in the event of a fire must be developed and posted.

- ◇ The fire plan should include a notation of 2 ways out, a meeting place, and the locations of fire extinguisher(s) and smoke alarms.
- ◇ Please also note the manufactured date of each smoke alarm on the plan.

Fire Drills

A fire drill shall be conducted monthly.

- ◇ Records of the drills are to be in accordance with the International Fire Code.
- ◇ Fire drills must include complete evacuation of all persons from the home.

Emergency Escape & Rescue Openings

All rooms used by children for sleeping must have an emergency escape and rescue opening in accordance with the International Fire and Building Code.

- ◇ An emergency escape and rescue opening is a **door** to the outside **or** a **window** to the outside with a minimum net clear opening of 5 square feet for ground level rooms and 5.7 square feet for 2nd story or higher windows.
- ◇ The outside window must also have a minimum net clear opening height dimension of 24 inches. The minimum net clear opening width dimension shall be 20 inches.
- ◇ The bottom of this opening must not be greater than 44 inches measured from the floor.
- ◇ To find the net clear opening in square feet, use the following:

$$N = H \times W / 144 \text{ inches}$$

N = net square feet of clear opening

H= clear height in inches

W= clear width in inches