



Cathedral City Residential Care Facility (RCF) Fire Inspection Cheat Sheet

Purpose: This guideline is designed to help you pass the official inspection by addressing common code requirements in advance. The following information facilitates compliance for residential care facilities licensed for six or fewer residents. Regulations are based on the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, the 2022 California Fire Code (CFC), and the California Building Code (CBC).

Please note: This guideline is not exhaustive. Additional requirements may apply based on the specific layout, occupancy, or features of your facility. All requirements are subject to change based on updates to the California Fire Code (CFC), California Building Code (CBC), or other applicable laws and regulations.

Submittal Requirements

- **Form STD 850** from the Department of Social Services (DSS) must be forwarded to Cathedral City Fire & EMS prior to scheduling your fire clearance inspection.
- Upon completion of the inspection, the 850 form will be completed and returned to DSS by Cathedral City Fire & EMS.

1. General Requirements

Facility Address

- Minimum 4-inch numbers on a contrasting background, permanently affixed and clearly visible from the street.

Site Plan

- Outline of the home and any other structures (e.g., detached garages, sheds).
- Identify which rooms house ambulatory or non-ambulatory residents.

- Show exit pathways from the home to the street, noting the narrowest width.
- Indicate and label any gates with their clear opening width.

✓ **Floor Plan**

- Label all rooms with their function (bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, etc.).
 - Clearly identify resident rooms and indicate the number of clients and their mobility status (ambulatory or non-ambulatory).
 - Show attached garages and any doors or openings between the garage and the home.
 - Note the height and clear width of all interior and exterior doors.
 - Provide hallway widths in client areas.
 - Show locations of all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
-

2. Fire Protection & Detection

✓ **Smoke Alarms**

- Install in every sleeping room, in hallways leading to bedrooms, or within 10 feet of bedroom doors.
- Alarms must be hardwired with a battery backup or use a 10-year sealed, tamper-proof battery (if no pre-existing hardwiring is present).
- Test monthly.

✓ **Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

- Required in all dwellings with:
 - Gas or wood-burning fireplaces.
 - Fuel-oil or gas forced-air furnaces.
 - Attached garages with a door, duct, or other opening to the home.
- Install CO alarms:
 - In each hallway or space leading to sleeping areas.
 - CO alarms must be hardwired and interconnected with battery backup.

- Follow manufacturer instructions. All devices must be UL listed and CA State Fire Marshal approved.
- Combination smoke/CO detectors are acceptable.
- Electrical work must be approved by the Cathedral City Building Department.

✓ **Fire Extinguishers**

- Minimum rating: 2A:10BC.
- Must be mounted on the wall within 75 feet of travel distance from all areas.
- Top of extinguisher must be mounted between 3 and 5 feet high.
- Must be serviced within the past year.

✓ **Fire Sprinklers (if applicable)**

- Required in R-4 occupancies (7 or more residents).
- Maintain inspection and testing records on site.

✓ **Heating Devices**

- Maintain proper clearance around portable heaters.
- Do not use unvented fuel-burning appliances.
- Water heaters must be double-strapped for earthquake safety.

■ **3. Exits & Egress**

✓ **Exit Doors**

- Minimum of two approved, remotely located exits.
- Exit doors serving clients must be at least 6 feet 8 inches in height and have at least 32 inches of clear width when opened 90 degrees.
- Hallways serving clients must be at least 36 inches wide.
- Exit paths must be kept clear of furniture, equipment, or storage.
- Lockable doors or gates along exit paths must:
 - Not require special knowledge, effort, keys, or tools to open.

- Open in the direction of travel.
-

4. Documentation & Emergency Planning

Evacuation Plan

- Post in each bedroom and at least one common area.
- Include evacuation routes, staff responsibilities, and designated meeting points.

Drill Logs

- Conduct and document monthly fire drills including date, time, and participant names.

Staff Training Records

- Document annual training on fire extinguisher use, evacuation procedures, and mobility assistance.

Inspection Reports

- Keep the most recent inspection records for alarms, sprinklers, and extinguishers on site.
-

5. Housekeeping & Maintenance

Electrical Panel Access

- Maintain at least 30 inches of clear access.
- No open breaker slots.

Extension Cords

- Do not use extension cords as permanent wiring.
- Use only power strips with built-in surge protection and circuit breakers.

Combustible Storage

- Do not store combustibles in furnace rooms or water heater closets.
- Keep hallways and exits clear.

- Maintain a minimum 36-inch wide clear pathway throughout.
-

6. Bedridden Room Requirements

In homes without sprinklers, only one bedridden client may be housed. The designated bedroom must meet all the following:

- Have a direct exit to the exterior.
 - Doors must be self-closing or automatically close when smoke alarms activate.
 - Exterior exit must be at least 36 inches wide with a minimum 32 inches of clear width.
 - Any elevation change over 0.25 inches must have a ramp or slope.
 - Exterior exit path must be solid, smooth, and unobstructed all the way to the side gate.
-

7. Exterior

- No outside kitchen.
 - No BBQ under covered patios.
-

8. Pools

- Maintain a 5-foot gate or fence around the pool.
 - Gate must include a self-closing pedestrian (man) door.
 - All pool equipment must be grounded and GFCI protected
-

9. Contact

Cathedral City Fire & EMS

- **Address:** 32100 Desert Vista, Cathedral City, CA 92234
- **Phone:** (760) 770-8200
- **Email:** fireinfo@cathedralcity.gov