



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin

Foster Family Homes

Issued: February 3, 2010

This Information Bulletin is being issued to clarify the applicability of State Fire Marshal Regulations contained in the 2007 California Building Code (CBC) as they pertain to Foster Family Homes (FFH) that care for 6 or fewer children. This bulletin specifically addresses the requirements contained in the 2007 CBC Section 425 for Group R-3.1 occupancies (Residential Care Facilities for 6 or fewer clients) and enforcement responsibilities of the local fire official.

There has been some confusion regarding the Standard 850 Fire Safety Inspection Request Form from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Community Care Licensing Division requesting a fire clearance for FFH that care for 6 or fewer children. Although Section 13143(b) of the Health and Safety Code specifically exempts FFH that provide care and supervision for six or fewer children who are ambulatory from any requirements other than those that are applicable to any other single family dwelling, it does not exempt FFH that provide care and supervision for children who are non-ambulatory. When a request for an 850 Fire Clearance from the CDSS is received for care and supervision of children who are “Non-Ambulatory”, all provisions contained in the 2007 CBC Section 425 for Group R-3.1 occupancies shall be required. Furthermore, requirements contained in Section 13235 of the Health and Safety Code regarding pre-inspection and fire clearance requirements will then apply.

For more information please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>