



Jim Pillen, Governor

Fire Drills in Health Care Facilities

This document lists requirements for fire drills in health care facilities. This includes hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities classified as limited care facilities.

Basic Requirements

- Fire Drills are required to be conducted quarterly on each shift regardless of the number of shifts.
- Fire Drills must include activation of the building fire alarm system, except that fire drills conducted between 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM can use a coded announcement instead of actual fire alarm activation. The fire alarm system must be activated within 24 hours of the fire drill to ensure the signal goes to the receiving station.
- A call must be placed to the fire department to verify they are aware of the fire drill.
- Participation by residents is not required, but staff must train to show the ability to physically move all residents including bedridden, bariatric or those connected to medical equipment.
- Fire drills must be varied in timing, location and fire simulation.
 - All fire drills on each shift must be at least one hour before or after the previous drill on that shift
 - Do not run fire drills at the beginning/end of each month or at shift change. Variation includes days of the week/month, too.
 - Fire drills must utilize different fire scenarios and locations for each drill.
- Implement RACE for all fire drills
 - Rescue – Remove residents from immediate potential harm
 - Alarm – Activate the fire alarm system
 - Contain – Close doors to reduce smoke spread
 - Evacuate or Extinguish – as the situation warrants. Uncontained fires or large amounts of smoke may require evacuation of a smoke compartment or the entire building. Smaller fires may be contained by a portable fire extinguisher. Never endanger the lives of residents or staff to contain a fire.

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Documentation

- Provide 15 months of fire drill documentation and fire alarm receiving logs to show that the fire alarm system was activated during the fire drill or within 24 hours for night fire drills.
- Date/Time/Shift of fire drill
- Location of simulated fire
- Who initiated/participated in the fire drill?
 - Include names/signatures and job titles of participants.
- After Action Report
 - Comments, Actions taken, Questions asked, Problems found and Discussion

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