



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS GROUP R-2.1 OCCUPANCY

Emergency planning and preparedness requirements focus on helping people know what to do during a fire or other emergency. While buildings are designed with safety features such as sprinklers, fire-resistant construction, and clearly marked exits, these systems work best when occupants are prepared to respond quickly and correctly. The Fire Code requires organizations to develop emergency plans, provide training, and practice fire, evacuation, and lockdown procedures on a regular basis. Preparing occupants in advance reduces confusion, improves safety during an emergency, and helps first responders do their jobs more effectively. The following are requirements for Emergency Planning and Preparedness for Group R-2.1 Occupancies per Chapter 4 of the 2025 California Fire Code.

FIRE SAFETY AND FIRE EVACUATION PLANS

An approved fire safety and evacuation plan shall be prepared and maintained for buildings containing a Group R-2.1. (CFC 403.7.1)

Fire evacuation plans

Fire evacuation plans shall include the following:

1. Emergency egress or escape routes and whether evacuation of the building is to be complete by selected floors or areas only or with a defend-in-place response.
2. Procedures for employees who must remain to operate critical equipment before evacuating.
3. Procedures for the use of elevators to evacuate the building where occupant evacuation elevators complying with Section 3008 of the California Building Code are provided.
4. Procedures for assisted rescue for persons unable to use the general means of egress unassisted.
5. Procedures for accounting for employees and occupants after evacuation has been completed.
6. Identification and assignment of personnel responsible for rescue or emergency medical aid.
7. The preferred and any alternative means of notifying occupants of a fire or emergency.
8. The preferred and any alternative means of reporting fires and other emergencies to the fire department or designated emergency response organization.
9. Identification and assignment of personnel who can be contacted for further information or explanation of duties under the plan.
10. A description of the emergency voice/alarm communication system alert tone and preprogrammed voice messages, where provided. (CFC 404.2.1)

Fire safety plans.

Fire safety plans shall include the following:

1. The procedure for reporting a fire or other emergency.
2. The life safety strategy including the following:
 - 2.1. Procedures for notifying occupants, including areas with a private mode alarm system.
 - 2.2. Procedures for occupants under a defend-in-place response.
 - 2.3. Procedures for evacuating occupants, including those who need evacuation assistance.
3. Site plans indicating the following:
 - 3.1. The occupancy assembly point.
 - 3.2. The locations of fire hydrants.
 - 3.3. The normal routes of fire department vehicle access.

4. Floor plans identifying the locations of the following:
 - 4.1. Exits.
 - 4.2. Primary evacuation routes.
 - 4.3. Secondary evacuation routes.
 - 4.4. Accessible egress routes.
 - 4.4.1. Areas of refuge.
 - 4.4.2. Exterior areas for assisted rescue.
 - 4.5. Refuge areas associated with smoke barriers and horizontal exits.
 - 4.6. Manual fire alarm boxes.
 - 4.7. Portable fire extinguishers.
 - 4.8. Occupant-use hose stations.
 - 4.9. Fire alarm annunciators and controls.
5. A list of major fire hazards associated with the normal use and occupancy of the premises, including maintenance and housekeeping procedures.
6. Identification and assignment of personnel responsible for maintenance of systems and equipment installed to prevent or control fires.
7. Identification and assignment of personnel responsible for maintenance, housekeeping, and controlling fuel hazard sources. (CFC 404.2.2)

The fire safety and evacuation plans shall include a description of special staff actions. Plans shall include all of the following in addition to the requirements listed in Fire evacuation plans and fire safety plans.

1. Procedures for full evacuation of care recipients.
2. In Group R-2.1 procedures for staged evacuation of care recipients through a refuge area in an adjacent smoke compartment and then to an exterior assembly point.
3. Shall be amended or revised upon admission of any resident care recipient with unusual needs. (CFC 403.7.1.1)

A copy of the fire safety plan shall be maintained at the facility at all times. The plan shall include the following in addition to the requirements listed above:

1. Location and number of care recipient sleeping rooms
2. Location of special locking arrangements. (CFC 403.7.1.1.1)

Maintenance

Fire safety, evacuation, and lockdown plans shall be reviewed or updated annually or as necessitated by changes in staff assignments, occupancy, or the physical arrangement of the building. (CFC 404.3)

Availability

Fire safety, evacuation, and lockdown plans shall be available in the workplace for reference and review by employees, and copies shall be furnished to the fire code official for review on request. (CFC 404.4)

Staff training

Staff shall be periodically instructed and kept informed of their duties and responsibilities under the plan. Records of instruction shall be maintained. Such instruction shall be reviewed by staff at intervals not exceeding three months. Training of new staff shall be provided promptly upon entrance to duty. Staff shall be instructed in the proper use of portable fire extinguishers and other manual fire suppression equipment. (CFC 403.7.1.2)

Resident Training

Residents capable of assisting in their own evacuation shall be trained in the proper actions to take in the event of a fire. In Group R-2.1, Condition 2 occupancies, training shall include evacuation through an adjacent smoke compartment and then to an exterior assembly point. The training shall include actions to take if the primary escape route is blocked. Residents shall be trained to assist each other in case of fire to the extent their physical and mental abilities permit them to do so without additional personal risk. (CFC 403.7.1.3)

EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS

Occupant participation

Emergency fire and evacuation drills shall involve the actual evacuation of occupants to a selected assembly point and shall provide occupants with experience in exiting through required exits. (CFC 405.2)

Frequency

Required emergency evacuation drills shall be held semi-annually on each shift for all occupants or more frequently where necessary to familiarize all occupants with the drill procedure. (CFC 405.3)

Staff shall participate in drills an additional two times a year on each shift. Twelve drills with all occupants shall be conducted in the first year of operation. (CFC 403.7.1.4)

Leadership

Responsibility for the planning and conduct of drills shall be assigned to competent persons designated to exercise leadership. (CFC 405.4)

Time

Drills shall be held at unexpected times and under varying conditions to simulate the unusual conditions that occur in case of fire.

Exceptions:

1. In severe climates, the fire code official shall have the authority to modify the emergency evacuation drill termination points and frequency.
2. In Groups R-2.1, I-2, I-3 and R-4, where staff-only emergency evacuation drills are conducted after visiting hours or where care recipients are expected to be asleep, a coded announcement shall be an acceptable alternative to audible alarms. (CFC 405.5)

Recordkeeping

Records shall be maintained of required emergency evacuation drills and include the following information:

1. Identity of the person conducting the drill.
2. Date and time of the drill.
3. Notification method used.
4. Employees on duty and participating.
5. Number of occupants evacuated.
6. Special conditions simulated.
7. Problems encountered.
8. Weather conditions when occupants were evacuated.
9. Time required to accomplish complete evacuation. (CFC 405.6)

Notification

Where required by the fire code official, prior notification of emergency evacuation drills shall be given to the fire code official. (CFC 405.7)

Initiation

Where a fire alarm system is provided, emergency evacuation drills shall be initiated by activating the fire alarm system. (CFC 405.8)

Accountability

As building occupants arrive at the assembly point, efforts shall be made to determine if all occupants have been successfully evacuated or have been accounted for. (CFC 405.9)

EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES**General**

Employees shall be trained in fire emergency procedures based on plans prepared in accordance with the California Fire Code. (CFC 406.1)

Frequency

Employees shall receive training in the contents of fire safety and evacuation plans and their duties as part of new employee orientation and at intervals not exceeding 3 months thereafter. Records of training shall be maintained. (CFC 406.2)

Fire prevention training

Employees shall be apprised of the fire hazards of the materials and processes to which they are exposed. Each employee shall be instructed in the proper procedures for preventing fires in the conduct of their assigned duties. (CFC 406.3.1)

Evacuation training

Employees shall be familiarized with the fire alarm and evacuation signals, their assigned duties in the event of an alarm or emergency, evacuation routes, areas of refuge, exterior assembly areas and procedures for evacuation. (CFC 406.3.2)

Fire safety training

Employees assigned fire-fighting duties shall be trained to know the locations and proper use of portable fire extinguishers or other manual fire-fighting equipment and the protective clothing or equipment required for its safe and proper use. (CFC 406.3.3)