Chapter 212-12 WAC
FIRE MARSHAL STANDARDS

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DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER

212-12-111 Applicability. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.27 RCW. WSR 02-16-023, § 212-12-011, filed 7/29/02, effective 8/29/02.
212-12-005 Definitions. [Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.63A and 48.48 RCW. WSR 93-05-032 (Order 93-02), § 212-12-005, filed 2/16/93, effective 3/19/93.] Repealed by WSR 08-06-050, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050.
212-12-045 Standards of safety—Codes adopted as applicable to hospitals, nursing and boarding homes and private psy-
212-12-046 Safety standards for jurisdictions having no comprehensive fire protection and safety code—Nursing homes, hospitals, boarding homes, maternity homes, "private establishments," and child welfare agencies—Adoption by reference of 1961 codes—Savings clause. [Order 337 (part), filed 10/26/67, effective 11/24/67; Regulation 182, filed 3/22/63.] Repealed by Order FMR 68-1, filed 5/2/68, effective 6/1/68.
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### Statement of Authority

The state director of fire protection is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045. WSR 08-06-050, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.27 RCW. WSR 02-16-023, § 212-12-410, filed 7/29/02, effective 8/29/02. Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.63A and 48.48 RCW. WSR 93-05-032 (Order 93-02), § 212-12-001, filed 2/16/93, effective 3/19/93.]

### Definitions

Unless otherwise provided in this section, definitions in the Washington State Building Code, chapter 19.27 RCW, and 42 C.F.R. Ch. IV § 483.70, National Fire Protection Association, standard 101 "Life Safety Code" 2000 edition, as adopted by CMS (Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services) shall apply to this chapter. The following definitions will also apply to this chapter:

1. "State director of fire protection" means the director of fire protection within the Washington state patrol, the state fire marshal or authorized deputy or designee.

2. "New facility" means any facility that is being occupied for the first time, vacated for more than one hundred eighty days and reoccupied, closed for more than one hundred eighty days and reopened, or for which the license has expired, will be considered a new facility and must meet the current codes and standards as adopted. Except for boarding homes which may be vacated for more than one hundred eighty days if approved by the director of fire protection and the department of social and health services.

3. "Before and after school program" means a program licensed by the department of early learning that provides early learning experiences for children five years of age through twelve years of age who are attending kindergarten or elementary school.

The following administrative codes and regulations are hereby adopted by reference as if set forth fully herein:


WAC 212-12-020 Additional boarding home requirements. (1) Boarding home resident evacuation capability levels.

(a) Evacuation capability is the ability of the resident of a boarding home licensed by the department of social and health services under chapter 18.20 RCW to respond to an emergency situation and either evacuate the boarding home or move to a point of safety.

(b) Residents shall be classified in one of the following evacuation levels:

(i) Level I - Persons physically and cognitively capable of walking or traversing a normal path to safety, including the ascent and descent of stairs, and capable of self-preservation, without the physical assistance of another person.

(ii) Level II - Persons physically and cognitively capable of traversing a normal path to safety with the use of mobility aids, but unable to ascend or descend stairs without the physical assistance of another person.

(iii) Level III - Persons physically or cognitively unable to walk or traverse a normal path to safety without the physical assistance of another person.

(2) Residents with evacuation capabilities of Level II or Level III must reside on the grade level floor unless the boarding home receives written approval by the director of fire protection to house these residents on other floor levels.

(3) The boarding home must not admit or retain more than two residents with evacuation capabilities of Level II or Level III unless:

(a) The boarding home receives written approval by the director of fire protection to care for more than two residents with evacuation capabilities of Level II or Level III;

(b) The boarding home is divided into at least two smoke barrier compartments on each floor; and

(c) The boarding home has an operational automatic sprinkler system throughout the facility, unless the boarding home was initially licensed prior to July 1, 2007, and is licensed for six or fewer residents.

WAC 212-12-022 Additional before and after school program requirements. (1) Before and after school programs located in an existing, operational, public school or private school will be deemed as meeting code requirements at the time of their construction. Except that locations that are not equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system throughout the building will be deemed as meeting code requirements only when the location of the programs meets the following:

(a) Program must be located on the ground floor with direct exiting in the area the program is being provided;

(b) The building has an installed fire detection and alarm system; and

(c) A sprinkler system is installed within the area the program is being provided.

(2) Before and after school programs that are not located in an existing, operational, public or private school must be inspected as a new facility and must be required to meet the code requirements outlined in chapter 19.27 RCW.

(9/3/13)
WAC 212-12-025 Fire reporting. Any facility licensed by the department of health or the department of social and health services, and inspected by the office of the state fire marshal, shall report within twenty-four hours to the office of the state fire marshal any accidental or unintentional fire, any unusual incident that required implementation of the facility disaster plan, including any evacuation of all or part of the resident population to another area within the facility or to another address, and any circumstance which threatened or could have threatened the ability of the facility to ensure continuation of normal services to the residents.

WAC 212-12-030 Right of appeal for state cited facilities. The following procedure will apply to appeals of orders, decisions or citations made by the state fire marshal's office:

(1) Administrative appeal (step 1) - A facility will have an opportunity to dispute cited deficiencies with a chief deputy state fire marshal. The purpose of this informal process is to give the facility an opportunity to refute cited deficiencies after an inspection. A written request with an explanation of the specific deficiencies that are being disputed shall be submitted within ten days of receipt of the correction notice. All submittals shall be sent to WSP-Fire Protection Bureau, P.O. Box 42600, Olympia, WA 98504-2600. If a facility is successful in demonstrating that a deficiency should not have been cited, the facility will be located at each main nurses' station on each floor, fire or smoke division, and/or building.

(2) Administrative appeal (step 2) - If a facility is not satisfied with the decision made during the administrative appeal (step 1), they may appeal the decision in writing within seven days of receipt of the written decision to the prevention division assistant state fire marshal. If a facility is successful in demonstrating that a deficiency should not have been cited, the facility will be notified in writing that the citation will remain unchanged.

(3) Actions to take for evacuation and assuring accountability of the occupants.

(4) In all Groups E-3, I, LC Occupancies, annual certification of fire alarm systems shall be performed by the holder of a current low-voltage electrical contractors specialty license issued by the department of labor and industries.

(5) In Group R, Division 1 Occupancies and Group R, Division 3 Occupancies used as transient accommodations, a copy of the written evacuation plan shall be posted in each guest room.

WAC 212-12-035 Special requirements. In addition to the fire and life safety standards listed in WAC 212-12-030, the following shall apply:

(1) In nursing homes, fire alarm system annunciators shall be provided where the system serves more than one floor, one fire or smoke division, or one building. They shall be located at each main nurses' station on each floor, fire or smoke division, and/or building.

(2) In all Group E-3, I, LC Occupancies, annual certification of fire alarm systems shall be performed by the holder of a current low-voltage electrical contractors specialty license issued by the department of labor and industries.

(3) Every story, and basements of Group LC Occupancies shall have not less than two exits.

Exception: Basements used exclusively for the service of the building may have one exit. For the purpose of this exception, storage rooms, laundry rooms, maintenance offices, and similar uses shall not be considered as providing service to the building.

(4) In all Groups E-3, I, and LC Occupancies, emergency lighting for means of egress shall be provided. Emergency systems shall activate automatically in a power failure and be supplied from storage batteries or an on-site generator set. The system shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Electrical Code.

WAC 212-12-040 Fire emergency plan. All Group I, Group E, and Group R2 Occupancies shall develop and maintain a written fire emergency plan. The plan shall include the following:

(1) Action to take by the person discovering a fire.

(2) Method of sounding an alarm on the premises.

(3) Actions to take for evacuation and assuring accountability of the occupants.

(4) An evacuation floor plan identifying exits.

(5) In Group R, Division 1 Occupancies and Group R, Division 3 Occupancies used as transient accommodations, a copy of the written evacuation plan shall be posted in each guest room.
WAC 212-12-044  Fire drills. In all Group I, Group E, and Group R2 Occupancies licensed by the state, at least twelve planned and unannounced fire drills shall be held every year. Drills shall be conducted quarterly on each shift in Group I and Group R2, Occupancies and monthly in Group E Occupancies to familiarize personnel with signals and emergency action required under varied conditions. A detailed written record of all fire drills shall be maintained and available for inspection at all times. When drills are conducted between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., a coded announcement may be used instead of audible alarms. Fire drills shall include the transmission of a fire alarm signal and simulation of emergency conditions. The fire alarm monitoring company shall be notified prior to the activation of the fire alarm system for drill purposes and again at the conclusion of the transmission and restoration of the fire alarm system to normal mode.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050. WSR 08-06-050, § 212-12-044, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.27 RCW. WSR 02-16-023, § 212-12-044, filed 7/29/02, effective 8/29/02. Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.63A and 48.48 RCW. WSR 93-05-032 (Order 93-02), § 212-12-044, filed 2/16/93, effective 3/19/93.]