



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

800 SW JACKSON, STE 104, TOPEKA, KS 66612

PHONE: (785) 296-3401 FAX: (785) 296-0151

2023 Joint Provider Questions

1. Instead of an outside company doing door inspections, can we do them in house via maintenance?
Yes, if the inspector is qualified and/or has experience in inspecting and repairing the fire rated doors. But you must have a certificate.
2. What do you consider high hazard area?
 - A. Boiler and Fuel-Fired Heater Rooms
 - B. Laundries (larger than 100 sq. Ft)
 - C. Repair, Maintenance, and Paint Shops
 - D. Soiled Linen Rooms (exceeding 64 gal.)
 - E. Trash Collection Rooms (exceeding 64 gal.)
 - F. Combustible Storage Rooms (over 50 and less than 100 sq. ft.)
 - G. Combustible Storage Rooms (over 100 sq. ft.)
 - H. Laboratories (if classified as Severe Hazard – see K322)
3. What if door is for memory care unit. possible elopement?
Assisted living and residential board and care occupancies are not permitted to have magnetic locks that are not equipped with a delayed egress function. Healthcare facilities such as nursing homes and hospitals with special units are allowed to have magnetic locks due to clinical need. In those cases, facility staff are required to carry keys and there must be a procedure established to provide the egress code to all cognitive residents and all visitors
4. If the door is an emergency egress door with a push bar, does the code need to be posted because of a keypad even though it has a push bar release with a sign indicating it will alarm after 3 seconds and open after 15 seconds? **No**
5. We have people living in our facilities that would be harmed if they get out the door. A code would be a danger for them.
If they have a high risk of elopement and they are not cognitive they would need to be in a memory care unit. Or You have a training program where all cognitive residents know how to get out the door and can demonstrate it. Also there must be a training program that educates visitors how to get out the door without assistance from the staff.

6. In a Health Care application, the keypad doors are tied in with the alarm system and releases during an alarm, do we still need to post the code during an active alarm?
Keypad codes must be posted at all times.
7. For the NFPA 25 that gives all the information on how often things should be done, what version should Home Pluses be using? NFPA 25 is for Sprinkler Systems – Home Plus is under NFPA 101 (2006) Edition.
For sprinkler systems they would be under NFPA 25 2008 version.
8. I heard Life Safety Code 2006, but the NFPA 25 doesn't have a 2006 version.
It is the 2008 Version of NFPA 25.
9. If a Fire Panel or Notifier panel goes down, that does initiate a Fire Watch, correct?
Yes, fire watch is required for any 4 hours in a 24-hour period, Sprinkler Systems are any 10 hours in a 24-hour period.
10. We are in the process of installing a generator. If it goes down, do we automatically go on fire watch with a dry system?
Yes
11. Did we understand that the fire marshal has to approve to go off of fire watch when the issue that prompted the fire watch is fixed?
Yes, information must be submitted to our office showing that the reason for the fire watch has been fixed.
12. If the city water is off, at what point do we put our facility on fire watch. you still have fire alarm just not sprinkler system?
If your sprinkler system is affecting for 10 hours in a 24-hour period, you will implement fire watch.
13. Do assisted living facilities have to have door inspections?
No
14. For the NFPA 25 that gives all the information on how often things should be done, what version should Home Pluses be using? I heard Life Safety Code 2006, but the NFPA 25 doesn't have a 2006 version. I don't believe this was answered.
Home plus falls under the 2008 version of NFPA 25 for sprinklers
15. We have a completely separate assisted living building, but skilled nursing patients go there for activities and beauty shop. I understand they would now be considered a healthcare facility but would the rule for evacuation of the assisted living patients still apply?
Yes

16. Our monitoring company only sends our report at the end of the month. Why are we tagged if our inspection is in the middle of the month?
Let the inspector know that it has not been held yet – They should not be writing these on the same month. The inspector has been spoke to about this.
17. Does a different person need to activate the alarm each time?
It is best practice to not have the same person doing this every time. You never know who may need to activate the pull station.
18. What is considered a full evacuation for an assisted living facility?
The drills shall involve the actual evacuation of all residents to an assembly point, as specified in the emergency plan, and shall provide residents with experience in egressing through all exits and means of escape required by this Code.
19. What regulations can I reference about the 2-hour fire door needed to separate skilled nursing from assisted living residents?
NFPA 101 (2012) 8.2.1.3 Where the building or facility includes additions or connected structures of different construction types, the rating and classification of the structure shall be based on one of the following:
(1) Separate buildings, if a 2-hour or greater vertically aligned fire barrier wall in accordance with NFPA 221, Standard for High Challenge Firewalls, Firewalls, and Fire Barrier Walls, exists between the portions of the building.
20. When the facility determines the staff "failed" the drill, is the drill required to be repeated until the staff performs correctly? or can education at the time of the drill be sufficient for compliance.
Education can be issued but needs to be documented.
21. Is an old building grandfathered in for the elevator safety act?
No, all buildings are required to register their elevators with our office and follow the inspections guidelines.
22. If the inspector for that the pit guard was never installed during original installation. who is responsible for obtaining counterweight guard -elevator company or owner?
The elevator company will do the installation. The building owner will eventually be paying for it depending on the maintenance contract.
23. Portable Heaters, when are they allowed if in an assisted living or skilled nursing facility?
Portable space heaters are allowed in staff non-sleeping areas only. Must be UL listed and the heating element cannot exceed 212 degrees.
24. Is there a place to get information about the contents and order of information in a fire safety book?
Yes. On our website at firemarshal.ks.gov you can find this information on our Fire Fact 080 – Fire Safety Book. This is located on our Fire Facts page.