

Exit Requirements

- Each room that is occupied must have two ways to exit. If one of the exits is a window it must meet exit requirements for windows.
- Exit doors must be at least 28 inches wide.

Window Exit Requirements:

- Emergency escape and rescue openings (windows) shall be a minimum of 5.7 square feet of net clear opening.
- The bottom of the opening shall not be greater than 44 inches in height measured from the floor.
- The minimum width is 20 inches of opening. If the window is 20 inches wide it must be at least 41 inches tall to meet the minimum openable area (5.7 square feet).
- The minimum height is 24 inches of opening. If the height is 24 inches the window must be at least 34 1/8 inches wide in order to meet the minimum openable area (5.7 square feet).

Record Keeping

All daycares must keep records of the following:

- Monthly extinguisher check
- Monthly smoke detector test
- Monthly fire exit drill
- Battery changes in detectors.

Group Daycares (daycares serving 8-12 clients)

- Building shall have not less than 35 square feet per client of interior recreation area. Work areas and office areas not designed for use of the client shall not be included in this computation.
- Each lot shall have an outdoor recreation area of not less than 40 square feet per client. This area shall be fenced and located behind the building setback lines. Recreation areas shall only be required for those clients under twelve (12) years of age.
- Adequate off street parking shall be available. One space for each 2 employees and one space for each ten (10) clients.
- Every sleeping room shall have at least one operable window or door to the outside that is approved for emergency escape and rescue.

Applications:

Can be picked up at 1020 E. Central Ave. or can be downloaded at: <http://www.bismarck.org/fire>.

Applications and payment must be received prior to an inspection. Payment details are on the application form.

Bismarck Fire Department



Fire Safety Inspections for Daycare Providers

To schedule your inspection contact the Bismarck Fire Department at:

1020 E Central Ave
Bismarck ND 58501-1936

Phone: 701-355-1400

Fax: 701-222-6524

Purpose

The purpose of our inspections is to inform and educate daycare providers of good fire safety practices for the home. Please call us if you ever have any questions or concerns for fire safety.

- **New daycare facilities must contact the Community Development Department, Building Division to ensure that proper zoning and building requirements are met prior to a fire inspection. The Building Division can be reached at 355-1465.**

One step in obtaining a daycare license is completing a fire/safety inspection. This is done by the fire department and a letter is sent to the daycare provider to present to the state licensing agency upon completion. To prepare the daycare provider for the inspection this brochure will take you, step-by-step, through what we look for during a home daycare inspection. The International Fire Code and the International Building Code establish the guidelines for life safety. Both of these codes have been adopted by the City of Bismarck.

General Safety

- An **operable flashlight** must be provided in case of a power outage.
- **All fuel fired heating appliances** (furnaces, water heaters) must be shielded to protect children from harm. All fuel fired heating appliances must be properly vented to prevent a build-up of toxic gases.
- All **combustibles** (paints, cardboard, papers) must not be stored near sources of ignition. Paints cannot be stored in the same room as heating appliances.
- **Outlets and extension cords** must not be overloaded and must be proper for use. Multi outlet strips must have internal breaker and be plugged directly into a wall. Power strips cannot be plugged into an extension cord. Cords must be UL listed and have the capacity to handle the appliance being served. You can only use one extension cord to an appliance (extension cords cannot be plugged together).
- If there are children under 6 years of age **outlet covers** must be provided.
- **Bathroom and bedroom doors** must be operable from the outside. If the door locks and a key /tool can be used, the key/tool must be in the immediate area of the door.
- **Closet doors** must be operable from the inside as well as outside. This prevents children from getting locked inside a closet.

Extinguishers

- **Fire extinguishers** need to be provided on each level of the home used for daycare.
- The minimum rating for a fire extinguisher is 2A 10BC.
- The extinguishers must be checked monthly to ensure the extinguisher is charged, easily accessible and has no defects that will affect use.
- Extinguishers shall be serviced annually by a certified agent or a new extinguisher can be purchased every year. A tag must be displayed on the extinguisher to show that it has been serviced,

Smoke Detectors

- **Smoke detectors** need to be provided on each floor of the home and inside each room used for sleeping.
- Detectors must be checked for operation monthly by using the test button.
- Batteries must be changed annually .
- Records of the date tested and battery changes in detectors must be kept and made available to the inspector on request.

Fire Drills

- A **drawing** of the interior layout of the home with an exit plan must be posted.
- Review the **exit plan** with each new child and parent.
- A **fire exit drill** shall be practiced monthly and a record of the dates of the drills shall be made available to the inspector upon request.