

Thatcher Plante
Captain of Fire Prevention



Eric Dubowik
Fire Inspector

Town of Bedford

Fire Department

Fire Prevention Bureau

LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION

General Instructions and Procedures for a Life Safety Inspection for a Foster Care Family Home

Obtain from the State of New Hampshire a Foster Family Care Application:

State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services
Foster Care Services
129 Pleasant Streets
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
(603) 271-4711

New Hampshire Law RSA 170-E:34 requires that a family day care home be inspected by the local fire department and that the fire code for a single family residence shall be applied by local fire departments in their review of compliance with local ordinances for family homes.

Before calling the Bedford Fire Department for an inspection, please take a few minutes to do a self-evaluation of the home to become familiar with the types of things that the inspector will be looking for.

Once you are confident that you are ready for an inspection, call the Bedford Fire Prevention Bureau and ask to speak with the fire inspector. Please refer to the following checklist. This is a general checklist and is intended as a guide only.

The Bedford Fire Inspector can be reached at (603) 472-3219 ext 6 .

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FIRE INSPECTION SELF-EVALUATION STUDY GUIDE LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION FOR FOSTER HOMES

This list is intended only as a guide. It may be helpful to review this list before calling your local Fire Inspector. The Fire Inspector can be reached at (603) 472-3219 ext 6.

- Does every room used for living, sleeping or dining purposes have at least two exits? One of these may be a window that is of sufficient size for the occupant to escape through. The state of New Hampshire requires a minimum of 20 inches wide and 24 inches high.
- Is any space intended for living, sleeping or dining accessible only by ladder or folding stairs? If so, it will not be approved.
- If the basement is to be used for sleeping, does it exit directly at ground level?
- Are all doors in the travel path to an exit at least 28 inches wide?
- Can all the closet doors be opened from the inside?
- Can every bathroom door be opened a minimum width of 24 inches from the outside in the event of an emergency?
- Does the home have smoke detectors? One per floor. Also it is highly recommended that you have carbon monoxide detectors on each floor as well. There are interconnected wired or wireless detectors that can sense both smoke and carbon monoxide.
- Is there at least a size 5BC fire extinguisher mounted in the kitchen near an exit? If you do not have an extinguisher, we recommend that you purchase a 3A-20BC, as this will extinguish any type of fire.
- Are the electrical circuits properly fused? Most homes have a 14-gauge electrical wire which calls for a 15 amp or smaller fuse or breaker.

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SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST
LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION
FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS

DATE _____

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

1. Does the home have at least one working smoke detector on each floor? YES ___ NO ___
2. Does the home have at least one working fire extinguisher? YES ___ NO ___
If you do not have an extinguisher, we recommend that you purchase a 3A-20BC, as this will extinguish any type of fire.
3. Does home have at least two ways out from each floor level? YES ___ NO ___
(windows, staircases, etc?)
4. Are there living spaces accessible only by ladder or folding stairs? YES ___ NO ___
If so, this space is unacceptable.
5. Does the basement exit directly to ground level if there is a bedroom? YES ___ NO ___
Exiting through a bulkhead or stairs is unacceptable.
6. Can all the windows in the sleeping areas of the home be open? YES ___ NO ___
Size that allows an occupant to escape minimum 20 inches wide 24 inches high.
7. Are all the doors in the travel path to an exit a minimum of 28 inches in width? YES ___ NO ___
8. Are all of the closet doors in the home operable from the inside? YES ___ NO ___
9. Are all the bathroom doors a minimum of 24 inches in width? YES ___ NO ___
10. Are all the electrical outlets properly fused? YES ___ NO ___
Most homes are wired with 14 gauge wire which calls for a 15 amp or smaller fuse or breaker.
11. Are all heat sources installed correctly and maintained? YES ___ NO ___
12. Does the home have a written/verbal evacuation plan? YES ___ NO ___
13. Is the home free of obvious fire hazards? YES ___ NO ___
(i.e., trash, discarded furniture, etc.)