



Subject: **Smoke Detection in Corridors Outside
Day Care Homes Located Within A
Building of Another Occupancy**

Authorized by: Leslie A. Albert
Acting State Fire Marshal

Policy

Procedure

Directive

PURPOSE: This direction provides for policy and guidance to ensure uniform enforcement of 41 Ill. Adm. Code 100 "Fire Prevention and Safety" and specifically for the interpretation of rules to be applied to the smoke detection requirements for the corridor outside of a day care home located in an apartment building.

CURRENT CODE: NFPA 101, Sections 16.6.3.4.2 and 17.6.3.4.2 requires that "Where the day-care home is located within a building of another occupancy, such as an apartment building or office building, any corridors serving the day-care home shall be provided with a smoke detection system in accordance with Section 9.6. Section 9.6 requires that this smoke detection system comply with NFPA 72-National Fire Alarm Code. Under NFPA 72, day care homes within building are required to install fire alarm control panels, along with system smoke detectors, and horn/strobe notification devices. The OSFM believes that due to the costs, strict compliance with NFPA 72 can be overbearing and unduly burdensome on day care home owners.

POLICY: Until a formal administrative rule change can be accomplished, the OSFM will permit the following smoke alarm installation in lieu of an NFPA 72 smoke detection system:

1. Smoke alarms connected to the building's electric shall be installed in accordance with proper coverage standards in the corridor serving the day care home.
2. Smoke alarms connected to the building's electric shall be installed in accordance with proper coverage standards within the day care home pursuant to Sections 16.6.4.3 and 17.6.3.4.3 as well as within 15 ft. of all sleeping rooms. The exception to Section 17.6.3.4.3 shall not be permitted.
3. All smoke alarms in #1 and #2 shall be arranged so that operation of any smoke alarm shall cause the alarm in all smoke alarms within the corridor and the day care home to sound.

4. This policy only applies to a day care home that is located in a building of another occupancy that is of a configuration that does not require an NFPA 72 fire alarm system pursuant to another section of NFPA 101.

JUSTIFICATION: This alternative fire protection design is feasible and will provide adequate protection. The purpose of Sections 16.6.3.4.2 and 17.6.3.4.2 is to protect the egress corridor for the day-care home clients and staff. The protection of other occupants of the building is not within the scope of this policy since this alternate detection arrangement can only be used in a building that is not required to have a fire alarm system. The interconnected smoke alarm system will sound within the corridor as well as within the day-care home providing notification of smoke and fire in both of those areas as intended by NFPA 101 without the hardship created by the NFPA 72 detection system.