

## Adult Foster Home Provider Alert

Policy updates, rule clarifications and announcements

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**Date:** August 5th, 2021  
**To:** APD Adult Foster Home Providers  
**From:** Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit  
**Topic:** **Sprinklers Now Required for New Adult Foster Homes**

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### IMPORTANT ALERT TO AFH PROVIDERS

Effective April 1, 2021 the building codes division implemented new Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) requiring sprinklers for all **NEWLY** licensed adult foster homes (AFH) in Oregon. A bulletin on this change can be found here: [BCD Technical Bulletin](#). This change only applies to **NEW** adult foster homes and is not retroactive to existing AFH.

If you or someone you know is considering opening a **NEW** AFH in Oregon it is incredibly important they contact the local building codes division for more information. The local office serving your county can be found here: [Locate a building department](#)

**If you are a new licensee and you have opened your AFH since April 1, 2021 it is important you contact your building codes division for more information and guidance.**

**411-050-0730 Operational Standards (2)** Each AFH licensee must comply with:  
(a) All applicable local business license, zoning, building, and housing codes.

#### Questions to Consider:

- Will this apply to my AFH that is currently licensed?

- This will likely not affect your home. If you have an existing license, you will not be required to add sprinklers for the time you remain licensed.
- Is there a deadline for the installation of sprinklers?
  - There is no deadline, but the building codes division will be the agency to oversee the process and the Department encourages you to work closely with your assigned contact.
- Will I be allowed to renew my license if I do not have fire sprinklers?
  - Yes. This requirement is only for new adult foster homes so AFHS that are currently operating will be able to renew without installing sprinklers.
- What if I sell my AFH and a new AFH applicant wishes to take over?
  - The sprinkler requirement will not go into effect if the same address remains a licensed AFH. However, the Department also recommends the new licensee call the building codes division to verify the status of the AFH.
- Are there alternatives to sprinklers?
  - There are some suggested alternatives, but the Department is not able to approve them. AFH applicants and licensees need to work with their building codes division to determine the possibility of being able to use alternatives to sprinklers.

If you have any questions about this new building code requirement, please feel free to contact the AFH team at: [APD.AFHteam@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:APD.AFHteam@dhsosha.state.or.us)