



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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TO: Community Based Care:
Assisted Living, Residential Care
Memory Care Facilities

FROM:

Safety, Oversight, and Quality

RE: Fire Evacuations

In recent months it has come to our attention that some facilities may not have adequate fire evacuation plans in place. By rule, 411-054-0090 (g), the facility must ensure residents evacuate from the building, either independently, or with assistance.

(g) Staff must provide fire evacuation assistance to residents from the building to a designated point of safety as determined by the fire authority having jurisdiction.

As per rule 411-054-0090 (1)(g) staff must provide support for evacuation. However, we are seeing deficits with some facilities evacuation plans.

The deficits in evacuation plans that we are seeing include:

- Not enough staff to fully evacuate the building.
- Numerous residents on upper floors who are non-ambulatory, and no plan in place for how to safely evacuate them from the building.
- Facilities under the erroneous impression that their occupancy classification includes “defend in place.”
 - Defend in place, which means to have residents stay in place in their apartment until staff and/or fire department arrives, **is not allowed** in any residential care and assisted living facility in the state, unless the building is designed for defend in place and there is an approved plan from the local fire marshal on file.

Residents must evacuate from the facility or be assisted to evacuate to a point of safety. All facilities **MUST** have a safe evacuation plan for all residents who are non-ambulatory and live on upper floors of the building.

There are four options that may assist you in this process, according to current rule 411-054-0090 (2):

- (a) Increasing staff levels to ensure adequate staff to evacuate in a timely manner;
- (b) Changing staff assignments to ensure adequate staff to evacuate in a timely manner;
- (c) Requesting change in resident rooms, (this option may be utilized only for evacuation compliance and not for other reasons not related to fire evacuations);
- (d) Arranging for special equipment to assist with evacuation.

All facilities must be prepared to evacuate the building of all residents and staff to a safe outside location OR have an approved designated point of safety within the building that has been approved by the facility's local fire authority.

A facility's evacuation plan is directly tied to the facility's occupancy classification. (For example, "SR-1, I-1")

In order to be in compliance with applicable rules and to protect the safety of residents, we request that facilities complete the following procedures:

- a. Be aware of your facility's occupancy classification and life safety plan classification (you can find this by speaking with your local building authority).
- b. Become familiar with the evacuation requirements that are tied to your building's occupancy and life safety classification.
- c. If your facility wishes to execute an evacuation plan that differs from the one directed by rule, you must have an alternate plan approved by your local fire authority, and that plan must be kept on file.

If you would like to investigate an alternate point of safety for evacuation, other than outside your building, please contact your local fire authority. Per rule an alternate point of safety can be approved.

Fire Marshal Web Site:

<https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Deputy-State-Fire-Marshals.aspx>

For questions please contact: CBC.team@state.or.us