



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

February 7, 2025

AL TSA: CCRSS #2025-002

INCREASED REGULATORY FOCUS BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM) – CERTIFIED COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTS (CCRSS)

Dear Certified Community Residential Services and Supports Provider:

WA State CCRSS facilities are responsible for ensuring consistent compliance with all applicable federal and state fire safety and life safety code (LSC) regulatory requirements.

OSFM has identified widespread fire alarm functionality concerns which place CCRSS residents and staff at potential risk. As a result, OSFM is increasing regulatory focus on existing semiannual regulatory requirements.

Current fire safety and LSC regulatory information, specific to CCRSS is provided below.

WA State regulatory requirements for OSFM include:

- [Chapter 212-12 RCW](#) – Fire Marshal Standards; and
- [Chapter 43.44 RCW](#) – State Fire Protection.

Supported Living clients rent their home or apartment. Effective March 15, 2024, the International Fire Code became effective in all counties of the State of Washington.

WA State fire safety regulatory guidance for supported living includes:

- [Chapter 51-54A WAC](#) – State Building Code Adoption and Amendment of the 2021 Edition of The International Fire Code,
- [WAC 388-101D-0170](#) – Physical and safety requirements,
- [WAC 388-101-3020](#) – Compliance.

OSFM uses regulations outlined in the following documents to complete fire safety and LSC regulatory tasks for CCRSS facilities:

- Life Safety Code (LSC) and 2012 edition of the NFPA 99 - Health Care Facilities Code (HCFC); and
- NFPA 101A – Guide to Life Safety, 2013 edition (2013 FSES)
(These documents are copyrighted and therefore must be obtained directly from the National Fire Protection Association.)

WA State fire safety regulatory guidance for group training homes includes:

- [Chapter 51-54A WAC](#) – State Building Code Adoption and Amendment of the 2021 Edition of The International Fire Code
- [WAC 388-101D-0615](#) – What requirements must the group training home's smoke detectors and fire extinguishers meet?
- [WAC 388-101D-0620](#) – How must a group training home prepare for emergency evacuations?
- [WAC 388-101-3020](#) – Compliance.

ALTSA Provider Letter: INCREASED REGULATORY FOCUS BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE
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WA State fire safety regulatory guidance for group homes includes:

- [Chapter 51-54A WAC](#) – State Building Code Adoption and Amendment of the 2021 Edition of The International Fire Code
- [WAC 388-101D-0170](#) – Physical and safety requirements
- [WAC 388-101-3020](#) – Compliance

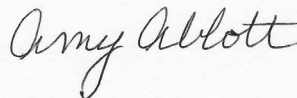
Related References:

- [WSP Fire Inspection & Plan Review Site](#),
- [RCW 19.27.031](#) – State building code – Adoption – Conflicts – Opinions,
- [Chapter 51-50 WAC](#) – State building code adoption and amendment of the 2021 edition of the international building code,
- [Chapter 51-51 WAC](#) - State building code adoption and amendment of the 2021 edition of the international residential code,
- [Chapter 70.92 RCW](#) – Provisions in buildings for aged and handicapped persons.

For questions about Life Safety Code regulations, please contact Cozetta Christian, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal at (360) 584-5796 or Cozetta.Christian@wsp.wa.gov

Please submit policy questions to the RCS Policy Unit at: RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: “Transforming Lives”