

## R&R NEWSLETTER ARTICLE FROM CHILD CARE LICENSING

ARM 37.95.706.2 A FIRE EXTINGUISHER MUST BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE ON EACH FLOOR LEVEL. THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF EXTINGUISHER CLASSIFICATION IS 2A10BC. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS SHALL BE MOUNTED NEAR OUTSIDE EXIT DOORS.

Over the last year, this regulation was one of the top 5 deficiencies for family and group home providers. When conducting inspections the licenser looks for at least a 2A10BC fire extinguisher that is readily accessible on each level (used by children) and mounted near an outside exit door. Deficiencies are cited if the extinguisher does not meet the minimum rating, can't be located and isn't mounted near an outside exit door.

The best place to mount a fire extinguisher is permanently on a wall. Always mount the extinguisher near an outside exit door. It is recommended that the top of the fire extinguisher not be higher than 5 feet or the bottom lower than 4 inches off the floor. Fire extinguishers should not to be placed near hazards. It is recommended that extinguishers be serviced annually.

Providers should be comfortable with fire extinguisher use. It is important to think of the following questions: Can you lift it? Can you quickly get the extinguisher off its mount to use? All caregivers and people living in the child care home should be oriented in the use of the fire extinguisher and know where it is located.

Don't be embarrassed about having a fire extinguisher. Be proud you own one, know where it is located and how to use it. In the event of a fire, first and foremost exit the building and get everyone to safety. When caring for small children, never leave them alone because as frightening as it is children will wander back into a burning building either looking for a caregiver or seeking safety, their bedroom or closet. Children don't realize the ramifications of fire so it is the responsibility of the provider and caregivers to ensure that children safely exit the building.

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