



303 Cleveland Avenue SE, Suite 206
Tumwater, Washington 98501
Telephone 360.352.3304 ▪ Toll-free 800.562.6170
Fax 360.754.2412 ▪ www.whca.org

Advocates for the Long-Term Care of Washington's Elderly and Frail

July 3, 2007

WHCA Skilled Nursing Facility Member Alert

Providers report increased fire & life safety citations in nursing homes

Providers have reported an increase in citations regarding fire and life safety issues in skilled nursing facilities. For clarification on the standards, Brandon LeMay, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal for the Prevention Division of the State Fire Marshal's Office, has provided the following information:

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard 101 (2000 edition) is the Life Safety Code, used currently as the standard for Nursing Homes. This standard has been adopted by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Washington State Law requires that the Washington State Patrol, Fire Protection Bureau utilize standards as adopted by CMS and therefore use NFPA 101 (2000 edition). This is not a change in code or standard.

The issue of items and furnishings in corridors has been raised as particularly troublesome for compliance. NFPA 101 chapter 7 addresses the specific issue regarding the concern for furnishings and items in the corridors.

NFPA 101 Life Safety Code® 2000 Edition

Chapter 7 MEANS OF EGRESS

7.1.10 Means of Egress Reliability.

7.1.10.1*

Means of egress shall be continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency.

7.1.10.2 Furnishings and Decorations in Means of Egress.

7.1.10.2.1

No furnishings, decorations, or other objects shall obstruct exits, access thereto, egress therefrom, or visibility thereof.

This section is not a change in the code nor is it a new standard. CMS has however allowed for some exceptions to this standard. Specific items that are considered to be "in use" have been allowed as exceptions. The exceptions include allowing crash carts and isolation carts in the corridors. Wheel chairs are allowed to be in the corridor for up to 30 minutes, but may not be stored in corridors. This includes resident lifts. Please note that chairs ("sitting areas" that are not part of an alcove) as well as medication carts are considered stationary and therefore cannot be stored in corridors.

(continued on page 2)

If you have questions or need additional information about this issue, please contact WHCA at 1-800-562-6170 or contact your local Fire Marshal:

Contact	Phone	Counties
Mr. Lyall Smith	(360) 570-3129	Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Grays Harbor, and Pacific
Mr. Paul Schroer	(360) 675-2636	Island, San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom and Snohomish
Mr. Cole Roberts Mr. Don West	(253) 536-4325 (253) 536-4324	King
Mr. Mike Sturgeon	(253) 536-4269	Pierce
Mr. Ken Morss	(360) 577-5416	Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, Thurston and Wahkiakum
Mr. Charles Chandler	(509) 575-2190	Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima
Mr. Duane VanBeek	(509) 734-7029	Adams, Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Whitman
Mr. Clifton Rogers	(509) 227-6567	Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens

A copy of the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code® 2000 Edition can be ordered through www.nfpa.org.