



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Division of Building and Fire Regulation

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: State Regulated Care Facilities

FROM: Richard A. Farthing, P. E.  
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Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office

DATE: September 14, 2000

The new 2000 Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the 2000 Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) have new regulations regarding State Regulated Care Facilities (SRCF). The regulations apply to new and existing State Regulated Care Facilities.

The building and fire prevention codes define a State Regulated Care Facility as a building or part thereof occupied by persons in the care of others where program regulatory oversight is provided by the Virginia Department of Social Services; Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; Virginia Department of Education or Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. SRCF are residential buildings classified in building code use groups R-2, R-3 and R-4 only.

The new regulations require all SRCF to have a fire extinguisher and smoke detectors in the following locations:

### Fire Extinguisher

Type ABC portable fire extinguisher having at least a 2A10BC rating is required in each kitchen (USBC 3402.15).

### Smoke Detectors (Battery powered or electric with battery backup)

As a minimum, a smoke detector shall be properly installed outside of each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms and on each additional floor (USBC 3402.15).

### 3) Licensed State Regulated Care Facilities have one additional requirement:

Fire exit drills shall be conducted not less than twelve times per year (SFPC F-701.1.1 & F-704.3.1).

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