



NDCC 50-11 mandates fire prevention and safety training, and the completion of a fire safety self-declaration (found in the SFN 1037 licensing packet), signed by each foster care provider. Each home must comply with the requirements of NDAC 75-03-14-03 and 622-05 policy related to checking and maintaining fire extinguishers, smoke and carbon monoxide detector/alarms, etc. Foster care licensing specialists are required to complete a walk through of the home during the home study process, if there is reason to believe a fire inspection is warranted, a licensing specialist has the authority to request an inspection be completed at anytime.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE



Fire Extinguisher

Must be accessible and maintained with a minimum of one **2A-10BC** fire extinguisher on each level of the home. Kitchen and laundry rooms are priority areas. Fire extinguishers must be serviced annually **or** replaced upon expiration noted by the manufacturer.

Why do we have to service or replace?

It is highly recommended that purchased fire extinguishers are "serviceable", this allows for an annual inspection to ensure proper functionality. If not serviceable, replacing according to manufacturer instruction and expiration date is required. If the unit is not serviceable, and there is no expiration date noted, then fire extinguishers must be repurchased every 3 years.



Smoke Alarm

Change *batteries* at least **once per year**. If hard wired with battery backup, the batteries still need to be changed. Smoke alarms expire and need to be replaced **every 10 years** per ND Fire Code.

Why do we have to change batteries and/or replace units?

Like all devices with electronic components, smoke alarms have a limited service life. As electronic devices, smoke alarms are subject to random failures. Replacing alarms after 10 years protects against the risk of failure. One way to mitigate risk is to **test alarms quarterly** to ensure the unit is in proper working condition.



Carbon Monoxide (CO)

If the home has a source for carbon monoxide through an attached garage, gas furnace, or gas appliances then the home must have at least one carbon monoxide detector/alarm on each floor per recommendation from the North Dakota State Fire Marshal.

What about combined smoke/carbon monoxide detectors?

Combined smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are allowed and do meet ND Fire Code.



Heating Systems

Furnace (gas, propane, or coal), chimneys, and hot water boilers must be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Heating systems do not require initial or ongoing inspections, maintenance is the responsibility of the provider. In effort to minimize the risk of a fire, providers must ensure items are not touching the electric heater or heat panels.

** Know the Risks **

Sources: NFPA (2021), CDC (2021)

- In 2021 North Dakota had:
 - 3,976 fires
 - \$40,400,212 in dollar loss
 - 6 civilian fire casualties/deaths
 - 20 civilian fire injuries
 - 7 fire service injuries
- Thanksgiving has more than 3 times the daily average of home fires involving cooking.
- Christmas has the highest incidence of candle fires.
- Sparklers burn at 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit – hot enough to melt metals.

- Every year, at least 430 people die in the U.S. from accidental CO poisoning.
- 26% of smoke alarms failures were due to dead batteries.
- 41% of fire deaths were in homes with no smoke alarms
- 16% of fire deaths were in homes that did not have working smoke alarms.
- The risk of dying in reported home structure fires is 55% lower in homes with working smoke alarms.
- Holiday lights and other decorative lighting with line voltage were involved in an estimated average of 150 home structure fires per year.

The licensing file does require the foster care provider provide verification of purchase (receipts) for any extinguishers, detectors/alarms, completion of required inspections, etc.