

## Minimum Fire Safety Standards

The following standards shall be viewed as a minimum standard of fire and life safety for all PARTICIPANTS in the Winter Shelter Program. Fire Department inspection and approval are required at all Winter Shelter Sites. Fire Department approval is the responsibility of the contracted agency.

- 1) Bed Placement: Space around beds will be approximately 3 feet on each of the longest sides. Aisles leading to exit doors will be eight feet wide and unobstructed by any cot or storage material.
- 2) Fire Watch: In the absence of an approved fire detection system, the Contractor will provide twenty-four hour fire watch. At the time of inspection of the facility, the Fire Inspector will determine the number of persons needed to perform fire watch duties. Fire Watch personnel are dedicated to that task. Fire watch personnel will be responsible for a continuous patrol of the shelter for the purpose of detecting fire or other emergencies, and transmitting an immediate alarm to the Fire Department and the occupants.
- 3) Alarm Device: The Contractor will provide a basic fire alarm sounding device. One pulling handle and a bell will be located so that fire watch personnel can activate it to alert the occupants of a fire or emergency. Fire Inspector will determine the type and necessity of the alarm device based on the size of the shelter. A manual device (i.e. whistle, a large school bell) may be sufficient.
- 4) Fire Extinguishers: The Contractor will provide fire extinguishers with a 2A rating. The extinguishers will be located within 75 feet of travel in every portion of the structure.
- 5) Partition Construction: The Contractor will make no temporary partitions, or any construction, with combustible material.
- 6) Smoke Detectors: The Contractor will provide smoke detectors. Battery powered smoke detectors are acceptable. If the facility has existing hard-wired devices, they must be operable. The appropriate number of smoke detectors will be determined at the time of inspection, based on shelter configuration and manufacturer specification.
- 7) Emergency Lighting: The Contractor will provide emergency lighting in each room and exit pathways. Plug-in lighting is acceptable.
- 8) Emergency Exits: Two exits per floor are required; and/or two exits per 50 occupants. The Contractor will maintain all means of egress free of any storage or other materials that would render egress hazardous in case of an emergency.
- 9) Exit Signs: The Contractor will provide exit signs at all exit doors. The signs shall bear the word "EXIT" in letters not less than 6 inches high with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch stroke on a sharply contrasting background at all exit doors. The signs may be paper or illuminated, subject to inspection.
- 10) Kitchen Fire Safety: If food preparation is to be done on-site, requirements for cooking facilities will be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the occupancy of the shelter.