

## KEY FIRE SAFETY DEFINITIONS

Alterations are changes made to the structure or floor plan of the facility by removing or adding walls and doors or adding space;

Dead-end is a corridor or hallway with no exit at the end that causes occupants to retrace their path to reach an exit;

Exit is the portion of a means of egress that is separated from all other areas of the building or structure by construction or equipment required to provide a protected way of travel to the exit discharge. Exits include exterior exit doors, exit passageways, horizontal exits, separated exit stairs, and separated exit ramps;

Exit access is the portion of a means of egress that leads to an exit;

Exit discharge is the portion of a means of egress between the termination of an exit and a public way;

Fire barrier is a structural element, either vertical or horizontal, such as a wall or floor assembly that is designed and constructed with a specified fire resistance rating to limit the spread of fire and restrict the movement of smoke. Such barriers may have protected openings;

Fire resistance rating is the length of time in minutes or hours that materials or structural elements can withstand fire exposure;

Flame resistant material is the property of material or their structural elements that prevents or retards the passage of excessive heat, hot gases, or flames under the conditions in which they are used;

Flame retardant is a chemical applied to material or other substance that is designed to retard ignition or the spread of fire;

Interior finish includes the interior wall and ceiling finish, and interior floor finish;

Level exit discharge is a horizontal plane that is located from the point at which an exit terminates and the exit discharge begins. The horizontal plane shall not vary more than two inches (2") in rise or fall;

Level is the portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and the ceiling above it, or any upper surface of a floor and the ceiling above it that is separated by more than five (5) steps on a stairway;

Means of egress is a continuous and unobstructed way of travel from any point in a building or structure to a public way. A means of egress consists of three (3) distinct parts: the exit access, the exit, and the exit discharge;

Mixed occupancy is when a family day care home is located in the same building or structure as another occupancy. This may include a business or place of assembly;

Public way is an area such as a street or sidewalk that is open to the outside and is used by the public for moving from one location to another;

Remote exit or means of egress is when two (2) exits or two (2) exit access doors are required. Each exit or exit access door shall be placed at a distance apart equal to at least one-half ( $1/2$ ) the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the building or area to be used;

Self-closing means to be equipped with an approved device that will ensure closing after having been opened;

Smoke barrier is a structural element, either vertical or horizontal, such as a wall, floor, or ceiling assembly that is designed and constructed to restrict the movement of smoke. A smoke barrier may or may not have a fire resistance rating; and

Supervised automatic sprinkler system is a system with the initiating devices monitored by the fire alarm control panel. This may include switches used to monitor the position of valves, a low air pressure switch, a water flow switch, and a tamper switch.