



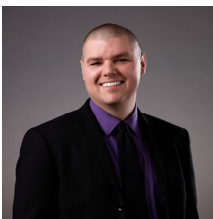
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS – DEMENTIA CARE

Care
Providers
of Minnesota

Michael Mireau, Public Health Architect, AL Physical Environment Supervisor
Engineering Services, Minnesota Department of Health

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INTRODUCTIONS



Michael Mireau, Public Health Architect, AL Physical Environment Supervisor
Engineering Services, Minnesota Department of Health

Michael Mireau was born, raised, and educated in Wisconsin. He holds a Master's degree in Architecture and is a licensed architect in the State of Minnesota. Before joining the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Michael worked at numerous architecture firms in the private sector until his appointment as the first Public Health Architect at MDH. Michael has been promoted as the Supervisor of the Assisted Living Physical Environment team. He is married, has two daughters and they love biking, camping, and lots of beach time during the summer. In his free time, Michael also likes to run and meditate.

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OBJECTIVES

- Understand the differences between an ALF and an ALFDC license
- Understand the basic requirements for all AL facilities
- Understand the minimum fire protection and physical environment requirements for all AL facilities
- Understand the minimum design requirements for new facilities with **6 or more** residents
- Understand the different Life Safety Code requirements between ALF & ALFDC
- Understand the additional minimum requirements for an ALFDC license

ALF vs. ALFDC

ALF – *Assisted Living Facility*

- Compliance with 144G.45 (*updates made in Dec. 2020 Special Session)

ALFDC – *Assisted Living Facility with Dementia Care*

- Compliance with 144G.45 & 144G.81 (*updates made in Dec. 2020 Special Session)

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

ALL FACILITIES – 144G.45, SUBD. 1

- Public utilities (or approved systems) must be available and working
- Accessible to fire department services and emergency medical services
- Sufficient natural drainage and not subject to flooding
- All-weather roads and walks must be provided within the lot lines to primary entrance
- Location must include space for outdoor activities for residents

FIRE PROTECTION & PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

ALL FACILITIES – 144G.45, SUBD. 2

- Smoke alarms
- Fire extinguishers
- Fire drills
- Physical environment maintained in a state of good repair
- Existing construction, elements, or systems cannot be a hazard to life

FIRE PROTECTION & PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

ALL FACILITIES 144G.45, SUBD. 2 (CONT.)

Each assisted living facility must comply with the State Fire Code in Minnesota Rules, chapter 7511, and:

For dwellings or sleeping units, as defined in the State Fire Code:

- i. provide smoke alarms in each room used for sleeping purposes;
- ii. provide smoke alarms outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms;
- iii. provide smoke alarms on each story within a dwelling unit, including basements, but not including crawl spaces and unoccupied attics;
- iv. where more than one smoke alarm is required within an individual dwelling unit or sleeping unit, interconnect all smoke alarms so that actuation of one alarm causes all alarms in the individual dwelling unit or sleeping unit to operate; and
- v. ensure the power supply for existing smoke alarms complies with the State Fire Code, except that newly introduced smoke alarms in existing buildings may be battery operated

FIRE PROTECTION & PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

ALL FACILITIES 144G.45, SUBD. 2 (CONT.)

- Fire safety and evacuation plans shall be readily available at all times within the facility.
- Residents who are capable of assisting in their own evacuation shall be trained on the proper actions to take in the event of a fire to include movement, evacuation, or relocation. The training shall be made available to residents at least once per year.
- Evacuation drills are required for employees twice per year, per shift, with at least one evacuation drill every other month. Evacuation of the residents is not required. Fire alarm system activation is not required to initiate the evacuation drill.

FIRE PROTECTION & PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

ALL FACILITIES 144G.45, SUBD. 2 (CONT.)

- The physical environment is kept in a continuous state of good repair and operation
- Any existing elements that an authority having jurisdiction deems a distinct hazard to life must be corrected.

MINIMUM DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

144G.45, SUBD. 4

For all new licenses or new construction with 6 or more residents:

Applicable chapters of the 2018 edition of the Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) “Guidelines for Design and Construction of Residential Health, Care and Support Facilities.”

- Part 1 – General
- Part 2 – Common Elements
- Part 4 – Specific Requirements for Assisted Living Facilities

LIFE SAFETY CODE DIFFERENCES

For all new ALF with 6+ residents – 144G.45, Subd. 5

- Chapter 32 – Residential Board and Care Occupancies, 2018 edition of the NFPA 101, Life Safety Code

For all new ALFDC, no matter # of residents – 144G.81, Subd. 3

- Chapter 18 – Healthcare (Limited Care), 2018 edition of the NFPA 101, Life Safety Code

ADDITIONAL ALFDC MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

144G.81, SUBD. 1 & 2

- A hazard vulnerability assessment (HVA) or safety risk must be performed on and around the property. The hazards indicated on the assessment must be assessed and mitigated to protect the residents from harm;
- Facility shall be protected throughout by an approved supervised automatic sprinkler system by August 1, 2029.
- Fire drills shall be conducted in accordance with 144G.45

AL PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT QUESTIONS?

CONTACT:

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- MDH website where we will post all questions and answers that we receive (for consistency and clarity)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/assistedliving>