

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BUREAU OF HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING
Assisted Living Residences (55 Pa.Code Chapter 2800)

Q/A - Regulatory Clarifications – January 2019

The clarifications and interpretations below will remain on the Department's web site until the information is included in the next updated Regulatory Compliance Guide (RCG).

Regulation: § 2800.132(d) and (h)- Fire drills

§ 2800.132 (d) Residents shall be able to evacuate the entire building to a public thoroughfare, or to a fire-safe area designated in writing within the past year by a fire safety expert within the period of time specified in writing within the past year by a fire safety expert. For purposes of this subsection the fire safety expert may not be a staff person of the home.

§ 2800.132 (h) Residents shall evacuate to a designated meeting place away from the building or within the fire-safe area during each fire drill.

Question: Do residents who are in their bedrooms or another area of a designated fire-safe area (unaffected by simulated fire) need to evacuate to the designated meeting place within the fire-safe area during a drill within the period of time specified in writing by a fire safety expert?

ANSWER:

Residents must evacuate to the designated meeting place away from the building or to the designated meeting place (common area) within the fire-safe area within the time specified in writing by a fire safety expert. Staff should immediately assure that the fire safe area is sealed/secured (all doors closed) and then alert residents to be ready to evacuate from the fire safe area if necessary should the fire spread or should fire officials recommend evacuation. This regulation intends that the residence designate one meeting place so that staff persons and emergency personnel can quickly check to determine if all residents have been evacuated. However, if it is absolutely necessary due to exit paths and mobility of the residents to have multiple meeting places the residence must have sufficient staff to ensure that residents' supervision needs are met pursuant to §2800.60(a).

Timing the Drill - The fire drill time begins when the alarm is sounded, and ends when the last resident enters the meeting place within the fire safe area(s) or exits the outside door. The best way to record this is by using multiple stopwatches for each meeting place within fire safe areas and one for outside.

1. When the alarm sounds, start the stopwatches.
2. When you believe that all residents have exited the building or arrived at the meeting place within the fire-safe area, stop the stopwatches.
3. Check the residence to ensure that all residents have evacuated. If you discover that one or more residents have not evacuated, assist the resident(s) out of the building or to the meeting place within a fire-safe area and document the circumstances on the fire drill record