

ers without having to return through the smoke compartment from which *means of egress* originated.

422.5 Automatic sprinkler systems. *Automatic sprinkler systems* shall be provided for ambulatory care facilities in accordance with Section 903.2.2.

422.6 Fire alarm systems. A fire alarm system shall be provided in accordance with Section 907.2.2.1.

SECTION 423 STORM SHELTERS

423.1 General. In addition to other applicable requirements in this code, storm shelters shall be constructed in accordance with ICC 500.

423.1.1 Scope. This section applies to the construction of storm shelters constructed as separate detached buildings or constructed as safe rooms within buildings for the purpose of providing safe refuge from storms that produce high winds, such as tornados and hurricanes. Such structures shall be designated to be hurricane shelters, tornado shelters, or combined hurricane and tornado shelters.

423.2 Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

STORM SHELTER. A building, structure or portions(s) thereof, constructed in accordance with ICC 500 and designated for use during a severe wind storm event, such as a hurricane or tornado.

Community storm shelter. A storm shelter not defined as a "Residential Storm Shelter."

Residential storm shelter. A storm shelter serving occupants of *dwelling units* and having an *occupant load* not exceeding 16 persons.

SECTION 424 TEMPORARY OVERFLOW EMERGENCY SHELTERS FOR THE HOMELESS

424.1 General. Existing A-2 and A-3 occupancies shall be permitted to provide facilities for temporary overflow emergency shelters for the homeless, provided that all of the following conditions are met and approved by the local code official and fire marshal:

424.1.1 The total number of homeless occupants is limited to 20 individuals who are ambulatory. The homeless occupants must be 18 years of age or older.

424.1.2 The building used for the temporary overflow emergency shelter must be of Type I, II, or III construction.

424.1.3 The temporary overflow emergency shelter must be staffed by a minimum of two individuals of 21 years of age or older and trained in accordance with Chapter 4 of the *North Carolina Fire Code* and at least one trained individual shall be awake to monitor the sleeping room and restrooms throughout the time the facility is occupied by the homeless.

424.1.4 Functioning smoke detection and a local fire alarm system in accordance with Section 907.2.8 shall be provided throughout the sleeping room and exit access corridors and stairs of the temporary overflow emergency shelter.

424.1.5 There shall be a minimum of two separate code compliant means of egress serving the temporary overflow emergency shelter. An evacuation route approved by the local code official and fire marshal shall be posted and be in compliance with Sections 404, 406, and 408 of the *North Carolina Fire Code*.

424.1.6 There shall be no lockable doors between sleeping rooms and required exits.

424.1.7 The temporary overflow emergency shelter sleeping room and exit access corridors and stairs shall have night lighting and emergency lighting with back-up power.

424.1.8 No fire protection sprinkler system is required in accordance with Section 903.2.8, Exception 2.

424.1.9 Heating, cooling, and ventilation must be provided by equipment installed and approved for such use. No space heaters are permitted.

424.1.10 There must be an adequate number of fire extinguishers to serve the temporary overflow emergency shelter as determined by the local fire marshal. Travel distance to an approved fire extinguisher shall not exceed 50 feet. Minimum rating of extinguishers shall be 3-A:40-BC.

424.1.11 No smoking is permitted in the temporary overflow emergency shelter.

424.1.12 The building owner must submit documentation illustrating that the fire alarm system is approved and that all emergency batteries have been tested and are operational.

424.1.13 Temporary overflow emergency shelters must be approved by the local code official for occupancy by issuance of an approved occupancy permit. Drawings of the temporary overflow emergency shelter sealed by a North Carolina licensed architect or engineer must be provided for local code official review and approval.

424.1.14 Compliance with *North Carolina Accessibility Code* for temporary overflow emergency shelters is not required, provided that the local jurisdiction has other shelter facilities that are accessible by the disabled.

424.1.15 Occupancy of a temporary overflow emergency shelter shall be for a maximum of 150 calendar days within any 365 day time span.

SECTION 425 LICENSED RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY

425.1 Classification. Buildings in which more than three people are harbored for medical, charitable or other care or treatment shall be classified as residential care facilities. The state agency having jurisdiction shall classify the facility as a residential care home, small residential care facility, small nonambulatory care facility or large residential care facility.

425.1.1 Fire extinguishers shall be installed in licensed residential care facilities in accordance with the *North Carolina Fire Prevention Code*.

425.1.2 Where two means of egress exits are required, the exits or exit access doors shall be so located and constructed to minimize the possibility that both may be blocked by any one fire or other emergency condition.

425.2 Residential care homes. Homes keeping no more than six adults or six unrestrained children who are able to respond and evacuate the facility without assistance, determined by the state agency having jurisdiction to be licensable, shall be classified as single-family residential (*North Carolina Residential Code*).

425.2.1 Each normally occupied story of the facility shall have two remotely located means of egress.

425.2.2 Smoke detectors shall be provided on all levels in accordance with the *North Carolina Residential Code*.

425.2.3 Interior wall and ceiling finishes shall be Class A, B or C.

425.2.4 Unvented fuel-fired heaters and portable electric heaters shall not be used.

425.3 Small residential care facilities. The following facilities when determined by the state agency having jurisdiction to be licensable, shall be classified as single-family residential.

1. Residential care facilities keeping no more than six adults or six unrestrained children with no more than three who are unable to respond and evacuate without assistance.
2. Residential care facilities keeping no more than five adults or five children who are unable to respond and evacuate without assistance, certifiable for Medicaid reimbursement; and staffed 24 hours per day with at least two staff awake at all times.
3. Residential care facilities keeping no more than nine adults or nine children who are able to respond and evacuate without assistance.

425.3.1 Either the *building* shall be of 1-hour fire-resistant construction, including all walls, partitions, floors and ceilings and bedroom doors, shall be 1.75 inches solid wood core or the building shall be sprinklered with a wet pipe system in accordance with NFPA 13D with a 30-minute water supply, including bathrooms, toilets, closets, pantries, storage and utility spaces. The sprinkler system shall be monitored in accordance with Section 903.4 (Section 903.4, Exception 1 is not applicable in this occupancy).

425.3.2 Buildings shall not exceed two stories in height or the area limitations for Group R-4. Attics and basements used as *habitable* spaces shall be counted as stories.

425.3.3 Each normally occupied story of the facility shall have two remotely located exits.

425.3.4 Facility exit stairways shall be either exterior unenclosed or interior enclosed on each level with 1-hour fire-resistant construction and a self-closing 20-minute labeled door. Other interior stairways shall be enclosed on one floor

level with 1-hour fire resistant walls and self-closing 20-minute labeled door.

425.3.5 Smoke detectors shall be provided on all levels in accordance with the *North Carolina Residential Code*. Heat detectors shall be installed in all attic spaces. The *heat detectors* shall be connected to the fire alarm and detection system.

425.3.6 Any incidental use area (as defined by Table 508.2.5) shall be enclosed with 1-hour fire-resistant construction and self-closing 20-minute labeled door or protected with an *automatic sprinkler system* and smoke resistant separation from other areas.

425.3.7 A building *fire alarm system* shall be provided in accordance with NFPA 72. Provisions shall be made to activate the internal evacuation alarm at all required exits.

425.3.8 Interior wall and ceiling finish shall be gypsum wallboard, plaster or other noncombustible material.

425.3.9 Unvented fuel-fired heaters, floor furnaces, and portable electric heaters shall not be installed.

425.3.10 Occupants younger than six years of age shall sleep on the level of exit discharge with adult supervision.

425.3.11 Every facility shall formulate an evacuation plan (in cooperation with the local fire department), for the protection of all persons in the event of fire, for their evacuation to areas of refuge and from the building when necessary.

425.4 Small nonambulatory care facilities. Facilities keeping no more than six adults or six children who are unable to respond and evacuate without assistance, when determined by the state agency having jurisdiction to be licensable, shall comply with the requirements for small residential care facilities.

425.4.1 The building shall be sprinklered with a wet pipe system in accordance with NFPA 13D with a 30-minute water supply, including bathrooms, toilets, closets, pantries, storage and utility spaces. The sprinkler system shall be monitored in accordance with Section 903.4 (Section 903.4, Exception 1 is not applicable in this occupancy.)

425.5 Large residential care facilities. Facilities keeping no more than 12 residents, when determined by the state agency having jurisdiction to be licensable, shall be classified as Group R-4, residential (*North Carolina Building Code*).

425.5.1 The *building* shall be of 1-hour fire-resistant construction, sprinklered with a wet pipe system in accordance with NFPA 13R, including bathrooms, toilets, closets, pantries, storage and utility spaces, and limited to one story in height. The sprinkler system shall be monitored in accordance with Section 903.4 (Section 903.4, Exception 1 is not applicable in this occupancy.)

425.5.2 The facility shall have two remotely located exits.

425.5.3 All doorways subject to use by residents shall have an egress width of not less than 32 inches (812.8 mm) when the door is in the open position.

425.5.4 Required *corridors, ramps, and passageways* shall have a clear width of not less than 6 feet (1828 mm) when serving as part of the *means of egress* from resident areas.

425.5.5 Buildings may have spaces open to the *corridor* provided:

1. Each area does not exceed 250 square feet (23.22 m²).
2. The spaces are not used for patient sleeping rooms, treatment rooms, or incidental use areas as defined in Table 508.2.5.
3. The area is equipped with *smoke detectors*.
4. Not more than one such area is permitted in any one *smoke compartment* when *smoke compartments* are provided.
5. The area is arranged not to obstruct access to required exits.

425.5.6 Unless required otherwise by Section 425.5.8, *corridor* partitions and doors in *corridor* partitions need not have a *fire-resistance rating* but shall be designed to resist the passage of smoke. Doors shall be equipped with approved latches that will keep the door tightly closed. All doors except those to patient sleeping rooms shall be self-closing or automatic closing by smoke detection. Interior wall and ceiling finish shall be gypsum wallboard, plaster or other noncombustible material.

425.5.7 *Corridors* shall be provided with *smoke detectors*. *Heat detectors* shall be installed in all *attic* spaces. The *heat detectors* shall be connected to the fire alarm and detection system.

425.5.8 Any incidental use area shall comply with the requirements of Table 508.2.5.

425.5.9 A building *fire alarm system* shall be provided in accordance with NFPA 72. Provisions shall be made to activate the internal evacuation alarm at all required exits.

425.5.10 Every facility shall formulate an evacuation plan (in cooperation with the local fire department and community emergency planning authority) for the protection of all persons in the event of fire, for their evacuation to areas of refuge and from the *building* when necessary.

SECTION 426

LICENSED ADULT AND CHILD DAY CARE

426.1 Exits.

426.1.1 Location. Rooms where occupants receive care in Group I-4 and R-3 adult and child day care facilities shall be on the level of *exit discharge*.

426.1.2 Number of exits. Group E and R-4 adult and child day care facilities shall have two exits.

Exception: Rooms where occupants receive care are located on the level of *exit discharge* and each of these rooms has an exit door directly to the exterior.

426.1.3 Walls and ceilings. All walls and ceilings in rooms that are used for day care purposes and are part of the exiting path shall have surfaces of noncombustible construction (plaster or gypsum wallboard).

426.2 Ventilation. Rooms where occupants receive care in R-4 adult and child day care facilities shall comply with the *ventilation* requirements of Section 1203 of this code.

426.3 Portable fire extinguishers. In Group R-3 and R-4 adult and child day care facilities, at least one 2-A:10-BC fire extinguisher shall be provided per floor with a maximum of 40 feet (12 192 mm) travel distance to the extinguisher.

SECTION 427

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

427.1 Boiler rooms in public schools. Every fuel storage room and boiler room shall be separated by 2-hour-rated construction. Door openings shall be to the exterior and all penetrations to the interior of the building shall be protected.

427.2 Open flame heating appliances in public schools. Every comfort heating appliance installed within a building which produces an unprotected open flame shall be separated by 2-hour-rated construction. Direct vent tubular infrared heaters installed in gymnasiums at a minimum height of 20 feet (6096 mm), measured from the finished floor to the bottom of the unit, shall be permitted.

427.3 Group E in churches, private schools and public schools. Rooms used for first grade children and younger shall be located on the level of *exit discharge*. Rooms used for second grade children shall not be located more than one *story* above the level of *exit discharge*.