

# Prepublication Requirements

• Issued December 17, 2021 •



## Edits to the EC Chapter

The Joint Commission has approved the following revisions for prepublication. While revised requirements are published in the semiannual updates to the print manuals (as well as in the online *E-dition*®), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical *The Joint Commission Perspectives*®. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit <http://www.jcrinc.com>.

**Please note:** Where applicable, this report shows current standards and EPs first, with deleted language struck-through. Then, the revised requirement follows in bold text, with new language underlined.

### APPLICABLE TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Effective July 1, 2022

## Environment of Care (EC) Chapter

### EC.02.03.03

The organization conducts fire drills.

#### Element(s) of Performance for EC.02.03.03

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|---|--|
| <p>1. The organization conducts fire drills once per shift per quarter in each building defined as a health care occupancy by the Life Safety Code.<br/>           Note 1: Evacuation of individuals served during drills is not required.<br/>           Note 2: When drills are conducted between 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M., the organization may use <del>alternative methods</del> to notify staff instead of activating audible alarms.<br/>           Note 3: In leased or rented facilities, drills need be conducted only in areas of the building that the organization occupies.<br/>           Note 4: Behavioral health care facilities are considered health care occupancies if door locking is utilized to prohibit individuals served from leaving the building or spaces in the building.<br/>           (See also LS.01.02.01, EP 11)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (D) |
| <p><b>1. The organization conducts fire drills once per shift per quarter in each building defined as a health care occupancy by the Life Safety Code.</b><br/> <b>Note 1: Evacuation of individuals served during drills is not required.</b><br/> <b>Note 2: When drills are conducted between 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M., the organization may use a <u>coded announcement</u> to notify staff instead of activating audible alarms.</b><br/> <b>Note 3: In leased or rented facilities, drills need be conducted only in areas of the building that the organization occupies.</b><br/> <b>Note 4: Behavioral health care facilities are considered health care occupancies if door locking is utilized to prohibit individuals served from leaving the building or spaces in the building.</b><br/> <b>(See also LS.01.02.01, EP 11)</b></p>            | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (D) |

Key: (D) indicates that documentation is required; (R) indicates an identified risk area;

3. When quarterly fire drills are required, they are unannounced and held at unexpected times and under varying conditions. Fire drills include transmission of fire alarm signal and simulation of emergency fire conditions. □ □

Note 1: When drills are conducted between 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M., the organization may use ~~alternative methods~~ to notify staff instead of activating audible alarms.

Note 2: For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 18/19: 7.1.7; 7.1; 7.2; 7.3.

**3. When quarterly fire drills are required, they are unannounced and held at unexpected times and under varying conditions. Fire drills include transmission of fire alarm signal and simulation of emergency fire conditions.** □ □

**Note 1: When drills are conducted between 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M., the organization may use a coded announcement to notify staff instead of activating audible alarms.**

**Note 2: Fire drills vary by at least one hour for each shift from quarter to quarter, through four consecutive quarters.**

**Note 3: For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 18/19: 7.1; 7.1.7; 7.2; 7.3.**

**EC.02.03.05**

The organization maintains fire safety equipment and fire safety building features.

Note: This standard does not require organizations to have the types of fire safety equipment and building features described in the elements of performance of this standard. However, if these types of equipment or features exist within the building, then the following maintenance, testing, and inspection requirements apply.

**Element(s) of Performance for EC.02.03.05**

1. At least quarterly, the organization tests supervisory signal devices on the inventory (except valve tamper switches). The results and completion dates are documented. □ (D)

Note 1: For additional guidance on performing tests, see NFPA 72-2010: Table 14.4.5.

Note 2: Supervisory signals include the following: ~~control valves; pressure supervisory; pressure tank; pressure supervisory for a dry pipe (both high and low conditions); steam pressure; water level supervisory signal initiating device; water temperature supervisory; and room temperature supervisory.~~

**1. At least quarterly, the organization tests supervisory signal devices on the inventory (except valve tamper switches). The results and completion dates are documented.** □ (D)

**Note 1: For additional guidance on performing tests, see NFPA 72-2010: Table 14.4.5.**

**Note 2: Supervisory signal devices include the following: pressure supervisory indicating devices (including both high- and low-air pressure switches), water level supervisory indicating devices, water temperature supervisory indicating devices, room temperature supervisory indicating devices, valve supervisory switches, and other supervisory initiating devices.**

~~7. For automatic sprinkler systems: Every six months, the organization tests water storage tank high- and low-water level alarms. The results and completion dates are documented.~~ □ (D)

~~Note: For additional guidance on performing tests, see NFPA 25-2011: 9.3; Table 9.1.1.2.~~

~~8. For automatic sprinkler systems: Every month during cold weather, the organization tests water storage tank temperature alarms. The results and completion dates are documented.~~ □ (D)

~~Note: For additional guidance on performing tests, see NFPA 25-2011: 9.2.4; Table 9.1.1.2.~~

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11. For automatic sprinkler systems: Every 12 months, the organization tests fire pumps under flow. The results and completion dates are documented. ☐ (D)  
 Note: For additional guidance on performing tests, see NFPA 25-2011: 8.3.3.
11. **For automatic sprinkler systems: Every 12 months, the organization tests fire pumps under flow. Fire pump supervisory signals for “pump running” and “pump power loss” are tested annually.** ☐ (D)  
 The results and completion dates are documented.  
**Note: For additional guidance on performing tests, see NFPA 25-2011: 8.3.3; 8.3.3.4.**
14. ~~Every 12 months, the organization tests carbon dioxide and other gaseous automatic fire-extinguishing systems. The results and completion dates are documented.~~ ☐ (D)  
 Note 1: Discharge of the fire-extinguishing systems is not required.  
 Note 2: For full text, refer to NFPA 12-2011: 4.8.3 and NFPA 12A-2009: Chapter 6.
14. **The organization tests automatic fire-extinguishing systems as follows:** ☐ (D)  
**- Carbon dioxide systems every 12 months**  
**- Halon systems every 6 months**  
**- Other special systems per National Fire Protection Association standards and manufacturers’ recommendations.**  
 The results and completion dates are documented.  
 Note 1: Discharge of the fire-extinguishing systems is not required.  
 Note 2: For full text, refer to NFPA 12-2011: 4.8.3.2 (for carbon dioxide systems) and NFPA 12A-2009: 6.1 (for halon systems).  
**Note 3: For full text, refer to NFPA 11-2010; NFPA 16-2011; NFPA 17-2009; NFPA 17A-2009 for other extinguishing systems.**

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