

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 NURSING CARE CENTERS 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.
 Note 1: Patients and residents may, but need not be, evacuated during drills.
 Note 2: 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 3: In shared facilities, drills need to be conducted only in areas of the building that the organization occupies.
 (See also LS.01.02.01, EP 11)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (D) |
| <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.
 Note 1: Patients and residents may, but need not be, evacuated during drills.
 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. <u>For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 18/19: 7.1.7.</u>
 Note 3: In shared facilities, drills need to be conducted only in areas of the building that the organization occupies.
 (See also LS.01.02.01, EP 11)</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.
8. For organizations that have hyperbaric facilities, emergency procedures and fire training drills are conducted annually. (For full text, refer to NFPA 99-2012: 14.2.4.5.4; 14.3.1.4.5) □ (D)
 Note 1: This drill includes recording the time to evacuate all persons from the area, involves applicable staff and licensed independent practitioners, and focuses on prevention as well as simulated extinguishment and evacuation. Response procedures for fires within and outside the hyperbaric chamber address the role of the inside observer, the chamber operator, medical personnel, and other personnel, as applicable. For additional guidance, refer to NFPA 99-2012: B.14.2 and B.14.3.
 Note 2: If the organization conducts an unannounced drill, it may serve as one of the required fire drills.

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, and other suppression system supervisory initiating devices.

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

EC.02.04.01

The organization manages medical equipment risks.

Element(s) of Performance for EC.02.04.01

5. The organization monitors and reports all incidents in which medical equipment is suspected in or attributed to the death, serious injury, or serious illness of any individual, as required by the Safe Medical Devices Act of 1990.  
11. The organization monitors and reports all incidents in which medical equipment is suspected in or attributed to the death, serious injury, or serious illness of any individual, as required by the Safe Medical Devices Act of 1990.  