

## Fire Equipment Policy

### Introduction and Purpose

The fire protection equipment, used within the Family Day Care environment, is potentially lifesaving. Responsibility must be taken to ensure that this equipment will operate effectively in the event of an emergency and therefore be maintained according to the Australian Standards (AS) 1851.

### Procedure

- The Educators are responsible to ensure that fire equipment is fit for purpose and stored correctly and effectively.
- An accredited person will inspect the fire blanket and extinguisher onsite within the Educators family day care residence on a six-monthly basis.
- The inspection will be recorded on the Fire Maintenance Record with a copy provided to the Educator and a copy filed on the Educators record.
- Educators are required to ensure that they maintain a working smoke alarm as per AS 1851 Section 6.4.2.1 General and AS 1851 Table 6.4.2.2, which state:
  - For Class 1a dwellings [...], the inspection, test, routine service and survey required by this section may be carried out by the occupant [...] and need not be recorded.
  - AS 1851 Table 6.4.2.2 state that on a six-monthly basis the points below are to be followed and may be carried out by the occupant:
    - Smoke Alarms and Heat Alarms – “Inspect all alarms for any condition that is likely to adversely affect their operation, such as excessive deposition dust or coating of paint”
    - Battery Missing Indication (If applicable) – “Inspect all alarms to ensure that any required battery missing indicator has not operated”
    - Mains Power On Indicator – “Inspect that the mains power on indicator is illuminated”
    - Alarm Test – “Activate the alarm test function and check correct activation of the audible indication”
    - Other Warning Devices (If applicable) – “Where other sensory warning devices are used as alarm-indicating devices, inspect all devices to ensure that they are in place”
- In the event of expired/expiring or faulty equipment the Educator will be responsible to replace any such item in accordance with manufacturer specifications and/or by the date recommended by the accredited person.

### Additional Information

- Fire extinguisher minimum requirement is an ABE rated dry chemical extinguisher of 1kg net capacity.
- Fire blanket minimum size requirement is 1mx1m.
- Fire equipment inspections may be performed by an accredited professional or accredited staff trained in the “Inspection and Maintenance of Portable Fire Protection Equipment” course.
- Accredited staff will maintain the currency of their qualification as required by the Australian Standard.
- Inspection equipment will be maintained accordingly.
- A nominated fee will be charged to the Educator for the fire equipment inspection service. An additional fee may be charged if multiple call outs are required.

### Reference/Source

Australian Standards 1851 – 2012 Routine Service of Fire Protection Systems and Equipment – Sections 1, 6, 10, 11 and 12

Fire and Rescue NSW [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au)

Work Health and Safety Law and Regulations 2011.

Education and Care Services National Law 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. Part 4.2. part 4.7 - 183

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care. Quality area 2.