

Prepublication Requirements

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Requirement Revisions Related to NFPA Codes and CMS CoPs

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 Joint Commission Perspectives®. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit <http://www.jcrinc.com>.

**APPLICABLE TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
March 1, 2026**

Environment of Care (EC) Chapter

EC.02.03.03

The organization conducts fire drills.

Element(s) of performance for EC.02.03.03

Current EP 3	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Note 2: Fire drills vary by at least one hour for each shift from quarter to quarter, through four consecutive quarters.</p> <p>Note 3: For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 18/19: 7.1; 7.1.7; 7.2; 7.3.</p>
Revised EP 3	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Note 2: For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 18/19: 7.1; 7.1.7; 7.2; 7.3.</p>

Life Safety (LS) Chapter

LS.02.01.10

Building and fire protection features are designed and maintained to minimize the effects of fire, smoke, and heat.

Note: This standard applies to behavioral health care settings that provide sleeping arrangements as a required part of their care, treatment, or services and that lock doors to prohibit individuals served from leaving the building or space.

Element(s) of performance for LS.02.01.10

Current EP 9 The fire protection ratings for opening protectives in fire barriers ~~and fire-rated smoke barriers~~ are as follows:

- Three hours in three-hour barriers
- Ninety minutes in two-hour barriers
- Forty-five minutes in one-hour barriers
- Twenty minutes in thirty-minute barriers

(For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.3.2; 8.3.4; Table 8.3.4.2)

Note: Labels on fire door assemblies must be maintained in legible condition.

Revised EP 9 The fire protection ratings for opening protectives in fire barriers are as follows:

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- Ninety minutes in two-hour barriers
- Forty-five minutes in one-hour barriers
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(For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.3.2; 8.3.4; Table 8.3.4.2)

Note: Labels on fire door assemblies must be maintained in legible condition.