



Membership Update

For Your Information

January 2013

Assisted Living Community Life Safety Proposal

Since the January 2012 effective date of the new Assisted Living Community (ALC) licensure category, Georgia-ALFA has been working with the State Fire Marshal on changes to the life and fire safety requirements for ALCs. We are working for changes that will allow more existing personal care homes (PCH) the opportunity to become licensed as ALCs. Below is a summary of the general proposal (for the larger existing PCH communities) under discussion with the State Fire Marshal. Please visit our web site for the full draft proposal. We should receive the State Fire Marshal's final proposal by mid-February.

Large Existing PCH Communities

- Limited to 4 stories wood frame (either 1-1-1 hour or 0-0-0 wall ratings) when there are NFPA 13R sprinklers or NFPA 13 sprinklers.
- NFPA 13R sprinklers are required (sprinklers except in the attic) when evacuation time is less than 13 minutes. (Prompt or Slow categories)
- NFPA 13 sprinklers are required (including attic) when evacuation time is more than 13 minutes. (Impractical category)
- Smoke barriers are not generally required unless there are no NFPA 13R sprinklers or there are Impractical timed residents.
- Evacuation times are calculated per the "point of safety" definition which means residents have to get to an exterior exit door, reach and be within a rated stair with a sufficient landing area, or be on the other side of a smoke barrier wall within 13 minutes.
- Other requirements generally and essentially will be similar to current requirements that large personal care homes have been built under during the last decade.

February 22 Luncheon – Elaine Wright, Director of PCH & ALC Programs, Healthcare Facility Regulations Division (HFRD)

Please plan to join us for our February 22 luncheon at Maggiano's in Buckhead. Our speaker will be Elaine Wright, Director of PCH and ALC Programs, Healthcare Facility Regulations Division (HFRD), Department of Community Health (DCH). She will be speaking about the new ALC & PCH rules & regs. Elaine will be answering our questions, so if you have questions please email them to genia@georgiaalfa.org by February 12.

Space still remains for the February 22 luncheon. To register, you can download the registration form from the Georgia-ALFA Web site: <http://www.georgiaalfa.org/Events/luncheons.html> and fax it to our office, or you can send an email to memberservices@georgiaalfa.org.

Department of Community Health’s Board (DCH) approves new PCH rules for final adoption with an effective date of January 8, 2013. *No changes in the wording of the rules were made as a result of the public comment period and hearing.*

Please visit our website www.georgiaalfa.org for a copy of the PCH Rules & ALC Rules. The Department is working on the Interpretive Guidelines (IGs) for the PCH Rules, which should be available during February.

Legislative Update

Georgia’s 152nd Legislative Session convened on January 14. Please look for additional updates coming during the session.

SB 14 (Senator Unterman): A bill to create a Georgia Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias State Plan Task Force was read and referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee. Georgia-ALFA will continue to monitor and follow this important legislation.

Advocacy Day 2013

Watch next week for the Advocacy Day registration flyer. We’ll be meeting at the Capitol and visiting with our state senators and representatives on Tuesday, February 26.

Georgia-ALFA Certified Medication Aide (CMA) Training Class

Our next CMA class is March 14 & 15. Please watch for information coming soon, or call the office at 678-407-2060.

Questions or need more information about anything in this update?

Please contact Genia Ryan at genia@georgiaalfa.org or 678-407-2060.

Membership Dues for Providers & Industry Partners are due NOW!

Don’t miss out on receiving important updates and information from Georgia-ALFA, renew today! Invoices have been mailed. If you need a replacement invoice, please email (genia@georgiaalfa.org) or call (404-583-1261) Genia Ryan, President/CEO.

Upcoming Events!

- Our next **Georgia-ALFA Bi-Monthly Luncheon** is Friday, February 22, 2013. Our Guest Speaker will be Elaine Wright, Director of PCH and ALC Programs, Healthcare Facility Regulation, Department of Community Health (DCH).
- The **Georgia-ALFA Conference & Trade Show** is October 8 & 9, 2013. Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, GA.
- Remember we’ll be at **Maggiano’s for our 2013 luncheons.**