



City of Grand Prairie Fire Department Fire Code Regulations

Ambulatory Care Facilities

An “ambulatory care facility” is defined by the Fire Code as an occupancy where patients receive medical care on a less than 24-hour basis, regardless of the facility’s hours of operation.

Ambulatory care facilities are unique in that they render services similar to those of a hospital, which may render patients unable to evacuate without assistance in the event of a fire or other emergency, yet are not subject to the same building and fire protection standards as hospitals.

The Fire Code classifies any building or space in which people are unable to evacuate in an emergency without verbal instruction or physical assistance as an ambulatory care facility. This may be due to any of the following:

- People are rendered incapable of emergency evacuation due to the care or services provided
- Staff has accepted responsibility for people who are mobility-impaired
- Services are reasonably targeted toward people who are unable to evacuate without assistance

These facilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) Dialysis centers
- 2) Procedures involving sedation
- 3) Sedation dentistry
- 4) Surgery centers
- 5) Colonic centers
- 6) Psychiatric centers
- 7) Spaces in which sleep studies are conducted

While classified by the Building and Fire Codes as a “B” or business occupancy, if there are four or more occupants receiving services on the ground floor, or any above the ground floor, the building must have an automatic fire sprinkler system.