

Department of Veterans Affairs State Veterans Home Survey Report

This survey report and the information contained herein, resulted from the State Veterans Home (SVH) Survey as a Summary Statement of Deficiencies. (Each Deficiency Must be Preceded by Full Regulatory or applicable Life Safety Code Identifying Information.) Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations Part 51 is applied for SVHs applicable by level of care.

General Information:

Facility Name: Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home

Location: 1101 Fifteenth Street, Augusta, GA 30901

Onsite / Virtual: Onsite

Dates of Survey: 9/24/2024 – 9/27/2024

NH / DOM / ADHC: NH

Survey Class: Annual

Total Available Beds: 192

Census on First Day of Survey: 123

VA Regulation Deficiency	Findings
	<p>Initial Comments:</p> <p>A VA Annual Survey was conducted from September 24, 2024, through September 27, 2024, at the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home. The survey revealed the facility was not in compliance with Title 38 CFR Part 51 Federal Requirements for State Veterans Homes.</p>
<p>§51.200(a) Life safety from fire.</p> <p>(a) Life safety from fire. The facility must meet the applicable provisions of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code and NFPA 99, Health Care Facilities Code.</p> <p>Level of Harm – No Actual Harm, with potential for more than minimal harm Residents Affected – Some</p>	<p><u>Smoke Barriers and Sprinklers</u></p> <p>1. Based on observations and interview, the facility failed to properly install sprinklers for spacing, style, and type. The deficient practice one (1) of 10 smoke compartments, staff, and 16 residents. The facility had a capacity for 192 beds with a census of 123 on the first day of the survey.</p> <p>The findings include:</p> <p>Observation during the facility inspection tour, on 9/25/24, at 10:29 a.m., of the [LOCATION] located on the [LOCATION], revealed the [LOCATION] was provided with two (2) pendant style sprinkler heads at the ceiling. The closet measured approximately four (4) feet wide by eight (8) feet deep. The sprinkler heads were installed approximately one (1) foot on center from each other. The two (2) sprinkler heads in the [LOCATION] were not at least six (6) feet apart on center, as required by section 8.6.3.4.1 of NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.</p>

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An interview with Maintenance Staff A, on 9/25/24, at 10:29 a.m., revealed the facility was not aware of the reason that there were two (2) sprinkler heads installed in the closet.

Observation during the facility inspection tour, on 9/25/24, at 10:30 a.m., of the [LOCATION] located on the [LOCATION], revealed the closet was provided with two (2) pendant style sprinkler heads at the ceiling. The closet measured approximately four (4) feet wide by eight (8) feet deep. One (1) sprinkler head was a quick response (QR) type and the other was a standard response (SR) type sprinkler head. The installation of QR sprinklers and SR sprinklers within the same compartment is prohibited by section 8.3.3.2 of NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

An interview with Maintenance Staff A, on 9/25/24, at 10:29 a.m., revealed the facility was aware that standard response sprinklers and quick response sprinklers could not be installed in the same compartment. The interview went on to reveal that all of the sprinklers in the building were replaced due to age, and the facility was not aware of the reason both sprinkler heads were not assessed.

The census of 123 was verified by Administrative Staff A on 9/25/24, at 8:30 a.m. The findings were acknowledged by Administrative Staff A and verified by other facility staff during the Life Safety Code (LSC) exit interview on 9/25/24, at 4:00 p.m.

**Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2012)
19.3.5 Extinguishment Requirements.**

19.3.5.1 Buildings containing nursing homes shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7, unless otherwise permitted by 19.3.5.5.

9.7 Automatic Sprinkler and Other Extinguishing Equipment.

9.7.1 Automatic Sprinklers.

9.7.1.1* Each automatic sprinkler system required by another section of this Code shall be in accordance with one of the following:

(1) NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems

Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 13 (2010), Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems

8.1.1* The requirements for spacing, location, and position of sprinklers shall be based on the following principles:

(1) Sprinklers shall be installed throughout the premises.

8.3.3 Thermal Sensitivity.

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8.3.3.1* Sprinklers in light hazard occupancies shall be one of the following:

- (1)** Quick-response type as defined in 3.6.4.7
- (2)** Residential sprinklers in accordance with the requirements of 8.4.5
- (3)** Standard-response sprinklers used for modifications or additions to existing light hazard systems equipped with standard-response sprinklers
- (4)** Standard-response sprinklers used where individual standard-response sprinklers are replaced in existing light hazard systems

8.3.3.2 Where quick-response sprinklers are installed, all sprinklers within a compartment shall be quick-response unless otherwise permitted in 8.3.3.3.

8.3.3.3 Where there are no listed quick-response sprinklers in the temperature range required, standard-response sprinklers shall be permitted to be used.

8.3.3.4 When existing light hazard systems are converted to use quick-response or residential sprinklers, all sprinklers in a compartmented space shall be changed.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.6 Compartment. A space completely enclosed by walls and a ceiling. Each wall in the compartment is permitted to have openings to an adjoining space if the openings have a minimum lintel depth of 8 in. (200 mm) from the ceiling and the total width of the openings in each wall does not exceed 8 ft (2.4 m). A single opening of 36 in. (900 mm) or less in width without a lintel is permitted when there are no other openings to adjoining spaces.

8.6.3 Sprinkler Spacing (Standard Pendent and Upright Spray Sprinklers).

8.6.3.4 Minimum Distances Between Sprinklers.

8.6.3.4.1 Unless the requirements of 8.6.3.4.2, 8.6.3.4.3, or 8.6.3.4.4 are met, sprinklers shall be spaced not less than 6 ft (1.8 m) on center.

8.6.3.4.2 Sprinklers shall be permitted to be placed less than 6 ft (1.8 m) on center where the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1)** Baffles shall be installed and located midway between sprinklers and arranged to protect the actuating elements.
- (2)** Baffles shall be of noncombustible or limited-combustible material that will stay in place before and during sprinkler operation.
- (3)** Baffles shall be not less than 8 in. (203 mm) wide and 6 in. (152 mm) high.
- (4)** The tops of baffles shall extend between 2 in. and 3 in. (51 mm and 76 mm) above the deflectors of upright sprinklers.
- (5)** The bottoms of baffles shall extend downward to a level at least even with the deflectors of pendent sprinklers.

8.6.3.4.3 In-rack sprinklers shall be permitted to be placed less than 6 ft (1.8 m) on center.

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8.6.3.4.4 Old-style sprinklers protecting fur storage vaults shall be permitted to be placed less than 6 ft (1.8 m) on center.

2. Based on observation and interview, the facility failed to maintain the kitchen hood extinguishing system in accordance with the code. The deficient practice affected one (1) of 10 smoke compartments, staff, and no residents. The facility had a capacity for 192 beds with a census of 123 on the first day of the survey.

The findings include:

Observation, on 9/25/24, at 11:33 a.m., during the building tour of the [LOCATION] revealed the wheeled, gas-fired, four (4) burner stove top with a single oven, and the six (6) burner char grille that were located on the cooking line in the [LOCATION] were not provided with an approved method that would ensure that the appliances were returned to an approved design location after they had been moved for maintenance and cleaning, as required by sections 12.1.2.3 and 12.1.2.3.1 of NFPA 96, Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations.

An interview with Maintenance Staff A, on 9/25/24, at 11:33 a.m., revealed the facility was not aware of the requirement for an approved method that would ensure that the appliances were returned to an approved design location after they had been moved for maintenance and cleaning.

The census of 123 was verified by Administrative Staff A on 9/25/24, at 8:30 a.m. The findings were acknowledged by Administrative Staff A and verified by other facility staff during the LSC exit interview on 9/25/24, at 4:00 p.m.

**Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2012)
19.3.2.5 Cooking Facilities.**

19.3.2.5.1 Cooking facilities shall be protected in accordance with 9.2.3, unless otherwise permitted by 19.3.2.5.2, 19.3.2.5.3, or 19.3.2.5.4.

19.3.2.5.2* Where residential cooking equipment is used for food warming or limited cooking, the equipment shall not be required to be protected in accordance with 9.2.3, and the presence of the equipment shall not require the area to be protected as a hazardous area.

9.2.3 Commercial Cooking Equipment. Commercial cooking equipment shall be in accordance with NFPA 96, Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations, unless such installations are approved existing installations, which shall be permitted to be continued in service.

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Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 96, Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations (2011)

12.1.2 Installation.

12.1.2.1 All listed appliances shall be installed in accordance with the terms of their listings and the manufacturer's instructions.

12.1.2.2* Cooking appliances requiring protection shall not be moved, modified, or rearranged without prior re-evaluation of the fire-extinguishing system by the system installer or servicing agent, unless otherwise allowed by the design of the fire extinguishing system.

12.1.2.3 The fire-extinguishing system shall not require reevaluation where the cooking appliances are moved for the purposes of maintenance and cleaning, provided the appliances are returned to approved design location prior to cooking operations, and any disconnected fire-extinguishing system nozzles attached to the appliances are reconnected in accordance with the manufacturer's listed design manual.

12.1.2.3.1 An approved method shall be provided that will ensure that the appliance is returned to an approved design location.

Building Services (Elevators, Escalators, Laundry Chutes, etc.)

3. Based on observation and interview, the facility failed to properly install gas equipment and appliances. The deficient practice affected one (1) of 10 smoke compartments, staff, and no residents. The facility had a capacity for 192 beds with a census of 123 on the first day of the survey.

The findings include:

Observation, on 9/25/24, at 11:32 a.m., during the building tour of the [LOCATION] revealed the wheeled, gas-fired, four (4) burner stove top with a single oven, and the six (6) burner char grille that were located on the cooking line in the [LOCATION] were not provided with a restraint system to limit the movement of the appliances to prevent strain on the connections, as required by sections 9.6.1.2 and 10.12.6 of NFPA 54, National Fuel Gas Code.

An interview with Maintenance Staff A, on 9/25/24, at 11:32 a.m., revealed the facility was not aware of the requirement for a restraint system to limit the movement of the appliances to prevent strain on the connections.

The census of 123 was verified by Administrative Staff A on 9/25/24, at 8:30 a.m. The findings were acknowledged by

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	<p>Administrative Staff A and verified by other facility staff during the LSC exit interview on 9/25/24, at 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 101 (2012), Life Safety Code 19.5.1 Utilities.</p> <p>19.5.1.1 Utilities shall comply with the provisions of Section 9.1.</p> <p>9.1 Utilities.</p> <p>9.1.1 Gas. Equipment using gas and related gas piping shall be in accordance with NFPA 54, National Fuel Gas Code, or NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, unless such installations are approved existing installations, which shall be permitted to be continued in service.</p> <p>Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 54 (2012), National Fuel Gas Code</p> <p>9.6.1.1 Commercial Cooking Appliances. Commercial cooking appliances that are moved for cleaning and sanitation purposes shall be connected in accordance with the connector manufacturer's installation instructions using a listed appliance connector complying with ANSI Z21.69/CSA 6.16, Connectors for Movable Gas Appliances. The commercial cooking appliance connector installation shall be configured in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.</p> <p>9.6.1.2 Restraint. Movement of appliances with casters shall be limited by a restraining device installed in accordance with the connector and appliance manufacturer's installation instructions.</p> <p>10.12.6 Use with Casters. Floor-mounted appliances with casters shall be listed for such construction and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions for limiting the movement of the appliance to prevent strain on the connection.</p>
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