

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: Minnesota Veterans Home – Hastings

Location: 1200 18th St. East, Hastings, MN 55033

Onsite / Virtual: Onsite

Dates of Survey: 2/13/24 – 2/15/24

NH / DOM / ADHC: DOM

Survey Class: Annual

Total Available Beds: 200

Census on First Day of Survey: 108

VA Regulation Deficiency	Findings
	A VA Annual Survey was conducted from February 13, 2024, through February 15, 2024, at the Minnesota Veterans Home - Hastings. The survey revealed the facility was not in compliance with Title 38 CFR Part 51 Federal Requirements for State Veterans Homes.
§ 51.350 (c) Life safety from fire. The facility must meet the applicable requirements of the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, as incorporated by reference in § 51.200. Level of Harm – No Actual Harm, with potential for more than minimal harm Residents Affected – Many	<u>Smoke Barriers and Sprinklers</u> 1. Based on record review, observation, and interviews, the facility failed to maintain the fire alarm (FA) system. The deficient practice affected 12 of 12 smoke compartments in [LOCATION], six (6) of six (6) smoke compartments in [LOCATION], staff, and all residents. The facility had a capacity for 200 beds with a census of 108 on the day of the survey. The findings include: Records review of the fire alarm inspection report, dated 11/14/23, revealed there was no indication of semiannual testing of the battery charger, load voltage, or discharge test for the back-up batteries either 12 months prior to the inspection or three (3) months after the inspection, as required by table 14.4.5 of NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. The facility had no other documentation of testing of the battery charger, load voltage, or discharge test for the back-up batteries.

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An interview with Maintenance Staff A, on 2/13/24, at 9:45 a.m., revealed the facility was not aware of the semi-annual requirement to test the battery charger, load voltage, and discharge test for the back-up batteries on the fire alarm system. An additional interview revealed the facility only conducted an annual inspection and testing of the facility fire alarm system.

The census of 108 was verified by Administrative Nurse A on 2/13/24, at 9:30 p.m. The findings were acknowledged by Administrative Nurse A and verified by Maintenance Staff A during the exit interview on 2/14/24, at 1:30 p.m.

Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 33, Residential Board and Care

33.3.3.4 Detection, Alarm, and Communications Systems.

33.3.3.4.1 General.

A fire alarm system in accordance with Section 9.6 shall be provided, unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The facility has an evacuation capability of prompt or slow.
- (2) Each sleeping room has exterior exit access in accordance with 7.5.3.
- (3) The building does not exceed three stories in height.

33.3.3.4.2 Initiation.

The required fire alarm system shall be initiated by each of the following means:

- (1) Manual means in accordance with 9.6.2, unless there are other effective means (such as a complete automatic sprinkler or detection system) for notification of fire as required
- (2) Manual fire alarm box located at a convenient central control point under continuous supervision of responsible employees
- (3) Automatic sprinkler system, other than that not required by another section of this Code
- (4) Required detection system, other than sleeping room smoke alarms.

9.6 Fire Detection, Alarm, and Communications Systems.

9.6.1* General.

9.6.1.1 The provisions of Section 9.6 shall apply only where specifically required by another section of this Code.

9.6.1.2 Fire detection, alarm, and communications systems installed to make use of an alternative permitted by this Code shall be considered required systems and shall meet the provisions of this Code applicable to required systems.

9.6.1.3 A fire alarm system required for life safety shall be installed, tested, and maintained in accordance with the applicable requirements of NFPA 70, National Electrical Code, and NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, unless it

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is an approved existing installation, which shall be permitted to be continued in use.

4.6.12 Maintenance, Inspection, and Testing.

4.6.12.1 Whenever or wherever any device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, fire-resistive construction, or any other feature is required for compliance with the provisions of this Code, such device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, fire-resistive construction, or other feature shall thereafter be continuously maintained. Maintenance shall be provided in accordance with applicable NFPA requirements or requirements developed as part of a performance-based design, or as directed by the authority having jurisdiction.

4.6.12.2 No existing life safety feature shall be removed or reduced where such feature is a requirement for new construction.

4.6.12.3* Existing life safety features obvious to the public, if not required by the Code, shall be either maintained or removed.

4.6.12.4 Any device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, fire-resistive construction, or any other feature requiring periodic testing, inspection, or operation to ensure its maintenance shall be tested, inspected, or operated as specified elsewhere in this Code or as directed by the authority having jurisdiction.

10.2 Purpose. The purpose of fire alarm and signaling systems shall be primarily to provide notification of alarm, supervisory, and trouble conditions; to alert the occupants; to summon aid; and to control emergency control functions.

10.3 Equipment.

10.3.1 Equipment constructed and installed in conformity with this Code shall be listed for the purpose for which it is used.

Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (2010)

14.4.2* Test Methods.

14.4.2.1* At the request of the authority having jurisdiction, the central station facility installation shall be inspected for complete information regarding the central station system, including specifications, wiring diagrams, and floor plans that have been submitted for approval prior to installation of equipment and wiring.

14.4.2.2* Systems and associated equipment shall be tested according to Table 14.4.2.2.

Table 14.4.2.2 Testing Schedule Frequencies

Fire Safety and Operations

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2. Based on observation and interview, the facility failed to ensure soiled waste containers did not exceed 32 gallons and were attended as required. The deficient practice four (4) of 12 smoke compartments in [LOCATION], zero (0) of six (6) smoke compartments in [LOCATION], staff, and all residents. The facility had a capacity for 200 beds with a census of 108 on the first day of the survey.

The findings include:

Observations during building tour of [LOCATION] on [LOCATION] and [LOCATION], on 2/14/23, at 10:22 a.m., revealed wheeled, plastic soiled linen containers stored and not attended in the corridor that exceeded 32 gallons in capacity, and not located in a room protected as a hazardous area, as required by section 19.7.5.7.1 of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code.

An interview with Maintenance Staff B, on 2/14/24, at 10:22 a.m., revealed the facility was unaware of the requirements for soiled linen and waste containers over 32 gallons stored unattended and not stored in a hazardous area.

The census of 108 was verified by Administrative Nurse A on 2/13/24, at 9:30 p.m., The findings were acknowledged by Administrative Nurse A and verified by Maintenance Staff A during the exit interview on 2/14/24, at 1:30 p.m.

**Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 101, Life Safety Code (2012)
19.7.5.7 Soiled Linen and Trash Receptacles.**

19.7.5.7.1 Soiled linen or trash collection receptacles shall not exceed 32 gal (121 L) in capacity and shall meet all of the following requirements:

- (1) The average density of container capacity in a room or space shall not exceed 0.5 gal/ft² (20.4 L/m²).
- (2) A capacity of 32 gal (121 L) shall not be exceeded within any 64 ft² (6 m²) area.
- (3) * Mobile soiled linen or trash collection receptacles with capacities greater than 32 gal (121 L) shall be located in a room protected as a hazardous area when not attended.
- (4) Container