

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 – Minneapolis

Location: 5101 Minnehaha Ave., South Minneapolis, MN 55417

Onsite / Virtual: Onsite

Dates of Survey: 10/24/24 – 10/25/24

NH / DOM / ADHC: DOM

Survey Class: Annual

Total Available Beds: 50

Census on First Day of Survey: 40

VA Regulation Deficiency	Findings
	<p>Initial Comments:</p> <p>A VA Annual Survey was conducted from October 24, 2024, through October 25, 2024, at the Minnesota State Veterans Home – Minneapolis. The survey revealed the facility was not in compliance with Title 38 CFR Part 51 Federal Requirements for State Veterans Homes/Domiciliary.</p>
<p>§ 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.</p> <p>Level of Harm – No Actual Harm, with potential for more than minimal harm Residents Affected – Many</p>	<p><u>Smoke Barriers and Sprinklers</u></p> <p>Based on record review and interview, the facility failed to test and inspect the Fire Alarm in accordance with the code. The deficient practice affected five (5) of five (5) smoke compartments, staff, and all residents. The facility had the capacity for 50 beds with a census of 40 on the first day of the survey.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Record review, on 10/24/24, at 12:00 p.m., of the fire alarm inspection reports for the 12-month period prior to the survey revealed there was no documentation of semi-annual, visual inspections of the smoke detectors, as required by table 14.3.1 of NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. The last inspections of the smoke detectors were during the annual inspections of the fire alarm on 9/11/24. <p>An interview with Maintenance Staff A, on 10/24/24, at 12:00 p.m., revealed the facility was not aware that the smoke</p>

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detectors were required to be inspected semiannually, and that the inspections were done annually when the fire alarm contractor came to test the fire alarm.

2. Records review of the fire alarm inspection reports, on 10/24/24, at 12:10 p.m., revealed there was no indication of semiannual testing of the battery charger, load voltage, or discharge test for the back-up batteries either six (6) months prior to the fire alarm inspections or six (6) months after the fire alarm 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.

An interview with Maintenance Staff A, on 10/25/24, at 12:10 p.m., revealed the facility was not aware that testing of the battery charger or discharge test for the back-up batteries in the fire alarm was required semiannually.

The census of 40 was verified by Administrative Staff A on 10/24/24, at 12:00 p.m. The findings were acknowledged by Administrative Staff A and verified by Maintenance Staff A during the LSC exit interview on 10/24/24, at 4:00 p.m.

Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 101, Life Safety Code (2012)
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.

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

9.6.1.4 All systems and components shall be approved for the purpose for which they are installed.

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	<p>9.6.1.5* To ensure operational integrity, the fire alarm system shall have an approved maintenance and testing program complying with the applicable requirements of NFPA 70, National Electrical Code, and NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code.</p> <p>4.6.12 Maintenance, Inspection, and Testing.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4.6.12.2 No existing life safety feature shall be removed or reduced where such feature is a requirement for new construction.</p> <p>4.6.12.3* Existing life safety features obvious to the public, if not required by the Code, shall be either maintained or removed.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>10.3 Equipment.</p> <p>10.3.1 Equipment constructed and installed in conformity with this Code shall be listed for the purpose for which it is used.</p> <p>Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (2010)</p> <p>14.4.2* Test Methods.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>14.4.2.2* Systems and associated equipment shall be tested according to Table 14.4.2.2.</p> <p>14.3 Inspection.</p> <p>14.3.1* Unless otherwise permitted by 14.3.2 visual inspections shall be performed in accordance with the schedules in Table 14.3.1 or more often if required by the authority having jurisdiction.</p>
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14.4.5* Testing Frequency. Unless otherwise permitted by other sections of this Code, testing shall be performed in accordance with the schedules in Table 14.4.5, or more often if required by the authority having jurisdiction.

Table 14.3.1 Visual Inspection Frequencies

Table 14.4.2.2 Testing Schedule Frequencies

Electrical Systems

3. Based on observation and interview, the facility failed to provide emergency stops for each emergency generator as required by the code. The deficient practice affected five (5) of five (5) smoke compartments, staff, and all residents. The facility had a capacity for 50 beds with a census of 40 on the first day of the survey.

Observation during the building inspection tour, on 10/24/24, at 12:25 p.m., revealed the facility failed to provide a remote manual stop for the 2000Kw primary generator and the 1600Kw secondary generator that provided emergency power to the entire campus, as required by section 5.6.5.6 of NFPA 110 (2010) Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems. An additional observation, on 10/24/24, at 12:25 p.m., revealed that the 1600kw generator was installed and operational in 1999, and the 2000Kw generator was installed and operational in 2012.

An interview, on 10/24/24, at 12:25 p.m., with Maintenance Staff A revealed the facility was aware of the requirement for remote manual stops to be provided for emergency generators, but was unaware that the facility did not have the required remote manual stops installed on their generators.

The census of 40 was verified by Administrative Staff A on 10/24/24, at 12:00 p.m. The findings were acknowledged by Administrative Staff A and verified by Maintenance Staff A during the LSC exit interview on 10/24/24, at 4:00 p.m.

Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 101, (2012) Life Safety Code 33.2.5 Building Services.

33.2.5.1 Utilities. Utilities shall comply with Section 9.1.

9.1.3 Emergency Generators and Standby Power Systems.

Where required for compliance with this Code, emergency generators and standby power systems shall comply with 9.1.3.1 and 9.1.3.2.

9.1.3.1 Emergency generators and standby power systems shall be installed, tested, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 110, Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems.

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	<p>Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 110 Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems (2010)</p> <p>5.6.5.6* All installations shall have a remote manual stop station of a type to prevent inadvertent or unintentional operation located outside the room housing the prime mover, where so installed, or elsewhere on the premises where the prime mover is located outside the building.</p> <p>5.6.5.6.1 The remote manual stop station shall be labeled.</p>
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