

# CENTRAL MARIN FIRE DEPARTMENT



Developed by

Ruben Martin, Fire Marshal  
Approved by

Scott Shurtz, Fire Chief

## Fire Protection Standard 100

### Occupancy Designation

Date: 8-21-2017

Revision: 8-21-2017

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This standard is being promulgated to provide information to Fire Inspection Personnel. It is not intended to substitute for the precise wording of the applicable codes, but to provide explanation in firefighter's language.

The California Fire Code as adopted classifies occupancies by groups that are broad, general classifications. The group classification letter also indicates the type of use, i.e., E = Education. Further, those groups are broken into divisions that have more specific definitions.

Fire Inspection personnel must be able to recognize the different occupancy classifications as some of the requirements for safety are based on the occupancy. Some examples of this occur when multiple tenant buildings are occupied by businesses of differing occupancy classifications, or a business, because of changing economic conditions, changes its use or size.

The format of the remainder of this Standard will be to present the occupancy groups alphabetically with a brief explanation of it followed by the divisions from least to most severe.

**Group A Occupancies: Assembly** – A building or portion thereof used for the gathering of 50 or more people for drinking or dining, education or instruction of adults (beyond high school), worship, entertainment, amusement or waiting for transportation.

- A-1: Assembly uses, usually with fixed seating, intended for the production and viewing of performing arts or motion pictures.
- A-2: Assembly uses intended for food and or drink consumption.
- A-3: Assembly uses intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses.
- A-4: Assembly uses intended for viewing of indoor sporting events and activities with spectator seating.
- A-5: Assembly uses intended for participation in or viewing outdoor activities like stadiums, bleachers, and or amusement parks.

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**Group B Occupancies: Business** – Includes the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for office, professional or service type transactions, including storage of records and accounts.

**Group C Occupancies: Organized Camps** – Includes a site with programs and facilities established for the purpose of providing an outdoor group living experience with social, spiritual, educational or recreational objectives, for five days or more during one or more seasons of the year.

**Group E Occupancies: Educational** – The use of a building or structure or a portion thereof, by more than 6 people at any one time, for educational purposes through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

E: Places of Worship: Religious educational rooms and religious auditoriums.

E: Day Care Facilities: This group includes buildings and or structures or portions thereof occupied by more than 6 children 2 years of age or older who receive educational, supervision or personal care services for less than 24 hours a day.

**Group F Occupancies: Factory** – This group includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for assembling, disassembling, fabricating, finishing, manufacturing, packaging, repair, and or processing operations.

F-1: Moderate Hazard Factory Industrial

F-2: Low Hazard Factory Industrial

**Group H Occupancies: Hazardous** – Building or structure that involves the manufacturing, processing, generation, or storage of materials that constitute a physical or health hazard in quantities in excess of those allowed in control areas based on the maximum allowable quantity limits for control areas.

H-1: Buildings or structures that contain materials which pose a detonation hazard

H-2: Buildings or structures that contain materials which pose a deflagration hazard

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H-3: Buildings or structures that contain materials that readily support combustion

H-4: Buildings or structures that contain materials that are health hazards

**Group I Occupancies: Institutional** – Includes the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, in which care or supervision is provided to persons who are not capable of self preservation with out physical assistance or in which people are detained for penal or correctional purposes.

I-1: Not Used

I-2: Includes the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, used for medical care on a 24 hour basis for more than 6 persons who are not capable of self preservation, non-ambulatory, bedridden.

I-3: Includes the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, which are inhabited by one or more persons under restraint or security.

I-4: Day Care Facilities; Includes the use of a building or structure, occupied by more than 6 clients of any age who receive custodial care for less than 24 hours by persons other than parents or guardians, relatives by blood, marriage, or adoption, and in a place other than the clients home.

**Group M Occupancies: Mercantile** – Includes the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for the display and sale of merchandise, and involves stocks of goods, wares or merchandise.

**Group R Occupancies: Residential** – Buildings where people live.

R-1: Residential occupancies containing sleeping units where the occupants are primarily transient in nature: Hotels, Motels, Boarding Houses (less than 30 days).

R-2: Assisted Living Facilities, Residential Care, Group Homes, etc.

R-3: Residential occupancies containing sleeping units where the occupants are permanent in nature.

R-4: Includes the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for more than 6 ambulatory clients who are capable of self-preservation.

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**Group S Occupancies:** – This group includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for storage that is not classified as a hazardous occupancy.

**Group U Occupancies:** – Buildings or structures of an accessory character and miscellaneous structures not classified in any specific occupancy shall be constructed, equipped and maintained to conform to requirements commensurate with fire and life hazard incidental to their occupancy.