



**CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE  
Fire Prevention Bureau**

Code/Procedural Interpretation

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**CFD Interpretation:** Evacuation Requirements for Independent Living Facilities

**Date:** May 27, 2014

**Code Reference:** North Carolina Fire Code, Section 408

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**Subject:**

If my facility is not classified as a “skilled nursing”, “intermediate care” or “assisted living” facility providing a supervised residential environment, but rather an “independent living” facility, are we required to evacuate upon activation of the fire alarm system?

**Interpretation:**

Yes. Those facilities that are not classified as skilled nursing, intermediate care, or assisted living facilities but that still provide a supervised residential environment, are classified as “residential” occupancies, and subsequently the residents must evacuate. Those residents located above the ground floor and who are not ambulatory and cannot safely negotiate stairs, need to proceed to the nearest exit stair enclosure and wait for assistance by fire personnel.

It is highly recommended that if there is on-site management, then a list be maintained on site of those residents that may need physical assistance.