



Dear Members,

As you know, the recent tragic fire at Gabriel House in Fall River resulted in the loss of life, injuries, and the displacement of residents. Our hearts are with those impacted, and we extend our gratitude to the first responders for their courageous efforts during this heartbreaking event.

In light of this tragedy, it is critical for all assisted living residences to review and communicate their fire safety and emergency protocols with residents and families. Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE) Secretary Robin Lipson has issued an [important message](#) reinforcing the urgency of this effort and providing guidance to support proactive safety measures. In addition, the Governor issued a [press release](#) announcing the Fire and Life Safety Initiative, including a statement of support from Mass-ALA.

Action Required:

- **Resident and Family Notification of Safety Protocols**

Within **5 business days**, ALRs must issue a letter to all residents and families—if you have not already done so—clearly outlining your **fire safety protocols, evacuation procedures, and key contacts for questions or concerns**. We have attached a [Resident and Family Notification of Safety Protocols Letter Template](#) to assist you. You may use this template or create your own letter, ensuring the required elements are included and tailored to your residents, families, and community culture.

- **Resident Access to Evacuation Instructions and Postings**

Ensure evacuation instructions and exit routes are **posted inside each resident's unit and in common areas**, consistent with best practices for residential life safety and 651 CMR 12.04(11)(a)(5).

- **Fire Safety Assessment Survey**

Complete and submit the [online Fire Safety Assessment Survey](#) as soon as possible, and no later than **30 calendar days from the date of this email**. The survey reaffirms compliance with fire safety requirements, including sprinkler systems, fire drills, evacuation protocols, fire-rated doors and walls, and requests information about the age and key systems within your building.

- **Emergency Preparedness Plan Submission**

Submit your current, site-specific **Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Plan** concurrently with the survey within **30 calendar days** using the link provided.

Summary Checklist:

- Issue your resident and family notification letter within 5 business days.
- Post evacuation instructions inside each resident unit and in common areas.
- Complete and submit your Fire Safety Assessment Survey within 30 days.
- Submit your updated Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Plan within 30 days.
- Submit a copy of your resident and family notification letter when submitting your survey.

Your proactive communication with residents and families is critical for maintaining trust and demonstrating your commitment to safety. Thank you for your continued dedication to resident well-being.

Please see the AGE message below and reach out if you have any questions or need assistance.

Dear Assisted Living Residence Executive Director:

Following the tragic fire at Gabriel House Assisted Living Residence, the Healey-Driscoll Administration is taking immediate steps to protect the safety and well-being of all assisted living Residents in Massachusetts. While this is a challenging time, it is also an important moment to reflect and reinforce our shared commitment to Resident and staff safety.

These actions are intended to identify and address potential risks and help ensure the safety of Assisted Living Residents and staff. We recognize and appreciate the commitment of all Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) in protecting the well-being of Residents and staff, and we look forward to working together to strengthen these efforts.

To support this shared goal, the Executive Office of Aging and Independence (AGE) is launching a **Fire and Life Safety Review Initiative** beginning **Monday, July 21**. As part of this initiative, all ALRs must complete the following actions:

1. **Resident and Family Notification of Safety Protocols** Within **5 business days**, ALRs must issue a letter to all Residents and families – if you have not already done so – clearly outlining your fire safety protocols, evacuation procedures, and key points of contact for questions or concerns.
2. **Resident Access to Evacuation Instructions and Postings** Ensure evacuation instructions and exit routes are posted inside each Resident's unit and in common areas, consistent with best practices for residential life safety and 651 CMR 12.04(11)(a)(5).
3. **Fire Safety Assessment Survey** Complete and submit the survey online ([LINK](#)) as soon as possible and no later than **30 calendar days** from the date of this letter. The survey reaffirms compliance with fire safety requirements, including sprinkler systems, fire drills, evacuation protocols, and fire-rated doors and walls. It also requests information about the age and key systems within the ALR building.
4. **Emergency Preparedness Plan Submission** Submit your current, site-specific Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Plan concurrently with the survey, within **30 calendar days**, using the link above.

We appreciate your leadership and partnership in this effort.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at ALRHelp@mass.gov.

Sincerely,
Robin Lipson
Secretary
Executive Office of Aging & Independence

*If you have any questions, please contact us at Mass-ALA@mass-ala.org.
This update is solely for general informational purposes. It is not intended to replace a full review of the cited regulations or guidance.*

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