

EMERGENCY EXIT FROM BUILDINGS

Nationally recognized building and fire codes require free and unobstructed egress from all occupied areas of a building. The parts of a building that are particularly important in an emergency exit situation are corridors, stairways, exits, and fire doors. Obstructions to any of these components in the egress system will compromise the evacuation of occupants in an emergency.

Corridors

Corridors provide the main access path to exits in emergencies. They must remain clear and unobstructed at all times. Corridors must not be used for hazardous material storage or work processes.

Stairways

Stairways provide a continuous, unobstructed safe path of travel between the floors of a building to an exit. Space within a stairwell (stairs, landings, and space beneath stairs) may not be used for storage of anything.

Exits

Exits and exit doors must allow free and unobstructed egress from the building. All exits must be clearly recognizable, or exit routes must be conspicuously marked so that occupants can quickly escape in an emergency.

Fire Doors

Fire doors are provided in corridors to segregate a building into sections and contain the spread of fire and smoke. This compartmentalization provides critical protection in the event of a fire, allowing occupants additional time to evacuate a building. Fire doors must be kept closed at all times. If these doors are propped open, fire and smoke will spread freely from one section of a building to another, particularly in buildings that are not equipped with automatic fire suppression systems.

Keeping all of these egress components unobstructed and operational at all times is critical to the safety of yourself and co-workers. If you have any questions concerning corridors, stairways, exits, or fire doors call EHS at x1451.