



Fire Prevention in Government Buildings Items to Think About



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Fire Service 32 years
Fire Prevention 23 years



Fire Prevention in Group B Buildings (Civic Administration)



- Exits
- Fire Protection Systems
- Housekeeping
- Electrical
- Miscellaneous
- Hazardous Materials.



3 Parts of the Exit

- Exit access
- Exit
- Exit discharge
- (public way)





Concerns with Exits

- The number of exits shall never be reduced in the number of exits or the capacity of the means of egress.
- 2 exits or more are required for occupancy over 50 persons.
- Common Paths of Travel
 - * Occupant load of less than or equal to 30 people without sprinklers is 100’.
 - * Occupant load of more than 30 people is 75’.
- Doors shall swing in direction of exit travel where serving occupant load of 50 or more.



Concerns with Exits

- The means of egress shall be illuminated at all times.
- Exits signs are required for spaces with 2 or more exits.
- Exit sign placement shall be such that no point in an exit access corridor or exit passageway is more than 100' from the nearest visible exit sign.
- Exit sign shall be internally or externally illuminated at all times.
- Obstruction shall not be placed in the minimum width or required capacity of a means of egress.



Concerns with Exits

- Exit doorways shall not be less than 32” in clear width.
- Manually operated flush or surface bolts are not permitted.
- Where panic or fire exit hardware is installed. It shall comply with the following.
 - Panic hardware listed with UL 305
 - Fire hardware listed with UL 10c or UL 305
 - The actuating portion of the releasing device shall extend at least ½ of the door leaf.
 - The maximum unlatching force shall not exceed 15 pounds.



Fire Protection Systems

- 1 2A fire extinguisher per 6,000 sq. ft in light hazard (offices) and 1 2A per 3,000 sq. ft. in ordinary hazard.
- Maximum travel distance to a extinguisher is 75'.
- Extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured.
- Extinguishers shall be house in cabinets or installed on hangers.
- Most extinguishers shall be no more than 5' above the floor.
- Extinguishers shall be serviced annually and shall have a current service tag.



Fire Protection Systems

- Fire sprinkler and alarm systems shall be serviced annually.
- All valves controlling water supply, pumps, tanks, water levels, and water flow switches shall be electronically supervised.
- Records of all systems inspections, tests, and maintenance required be referenced standards shall be maintained.
- Painted sprinkler heads or cover plates shall be replaced. Paint can not be cleaned off.
- 3' of clearance shall be maintained around fire hydrants and Fire Department Connections.



Housekeeping

- Weeds, grass, vines, or other growth shall be cut down and removed by the owner or occupant.
- Storage of combustible material shall be orderly inside the building.
- Storage shall be separated from heaters or heating devices by distance or shielding.
- Storage in non-sprinklered buildings shall be 2' or more from the ceiling.
- Storage shall be maintained a minimum of 18" below the sprinkler deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings.



Housekeeping

- Combustible materials shall not be stored in exit or enclosures for stairways and ramps.
- Combustible materials shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms, or electrical equipment rooms.
- Openings shall be protected by assemblies that are self-closing and are of noncombustible construction.
- Combustible waste containers larger than 40 gallons shall have lids and must be made of metal or approved combustible materials.



Housekeeping

- Dumpsters and containers with an individual capacity of 1.5 cubic yards or more shall not be stored in buildings or placed within 5 feet of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines.



Electrical

- Power strips shall be the grounded type, equipped with overcurrent protection, and shall be listed in accordance with UL 1363.
- Power strips shall be plugged into a permanently installed receptacle.
- Power Strips shall not extend through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor coverings.
- Extension cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring.
- Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor coverings.



Electrical

- Extension cords shall only be used with portable appliances.
- Extension cords shall be plugged into permanent receptacles.
- Extension Cords shall be grounded when serving grounded portable appliances.
- A working space of at least 30" wide, 36" deep, and 78" in height shall be provided in front of the electrical equipment panels. If panels are wider than 30" the width shall be same as the equipment.
- Open junction boxes and open wiring splices are prohibited.



Electrical

- Temporary wiring for electrical power and lighting installations is allowed for a period not to exceed 90 days.
- Doors into electrical control panel control rooms shall be marked with **“ELECTRICAL ROOM”**.
- Disconnecting means for each service shall be clearly marked.
- Electrical rooms rated at over 1,200 amperes or more and over 6 feet wide and have exit or exit access doors shall be equipped with panic hardware. The door shall swing in the direction of egress.



MISCELLANEOUS

- New and existing building shall have their address number displayed.
- A Knox Box may be required by the Fire Official for immediate access for life safety or firefighting purposes.
- Fire apparatus access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles.
- Fire apparatus access roads shall be 20' in width and a clear height of 13' 6".
- An approved fire safety and evacuation plan shall be prepared and maintained in Group B occupancies.



MISCELLANEOUS

- Emergency evacuation drills shall be conducted in Group B occupancies annually by all employees.
- Existing building that do not have approved radio coverage for emergency responders within the building, shall be checked for coverage. Systems may have to be added.
- Existing buildings 50' or more above or below the level of fire department access shall have a standpipe(s).
- Existing stairways shall be marked with stairway floor number signs.



Hazardous Materials

- Storage of materials that are incompatible with materials in use shall be separated when the stored materials are in containers having a capacity of more than 5 pounds or 0.5 gallons.
- Shelf storage of flammable and combustible liquids shall be orderly.
- Portable LP-gas containers shall not be stored or used in a basement, pit or similar location where heavier-than-air gas might collect.
- Quantities of flammable and combustible liquids in excess of 10 gallons used for maintenance purposes and the operation of equipment shall be stored in liquid storage cabinets.



Hazardous Materials

- Idle LP-gas cylinders shall be stored outside of buildings.
- Rooms or cabinets containing compressed gases shall be labeled: **COMPRESSED GAS** when in quantities requiring a permit.