

LOUISIANA BUILDING CODE FOR STATE OWNED BUILDINGS

Any new construction, alteration, addition, or renovation plans for state buildings shall be endorsed by the rules and regulations promulgated by Facility Planning and Control.

Additionally, the plans shall be reviewed by the State Fire Marshal to assure compliance with the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code 101 among other codes, local or otherwise.

Logically, such plans would be reviewed by the Environmental Health and Safety Department prior to submission to the State Fire Marshal.

Experience has taught us that we shall inspect for those code requirements that can be reasonably controlled by the building coordinator and/or Physical Plant personnel.

Areas of considerable concern include: exits and means of egress, panic hardware, locking or obstructing exits and passageways, exit signs and exit ways, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, sprinkler systems, housekeeping, and evacuation diagrams.

EXIT AND MEANS OF EGRESS

Exits shall be so located and exit access shall be so arranged that exits are readily accessible at all times. Where exits are not immediately accessible from an open floor area, safe and continuous passageways, aisles or corridors shall be maintained leading directly to every exit and shall be so arranged as to provide convenient access for each occupant to at least two exits by separate ways of travel.

In no case shall access to an exit be through kitchens, store-rooms, restrooms, closets, bedrooms, or similar spaces or other rooms subject to locking (above does not apply specifically to dwelling or some apartments--contact Environmental Health and Safety Department for clarification).

Ways of exit access and the doors to the exits to which they lead shall be clearly recognizable. Hangings or draperies shall not be placed over exit doors or otherwise located so as to conceal or obscure any exit. Mirrors shall not be placed on exit doors. Mirrors shall not be placed so as to confuse the direction of exit.

PANIC HARDWARE FOR REQUIRED EXITS

Panic hardware consists of a door latching assembly incorporating device which releases the latch upon the application of a force in the direction of exit travel. Only approved panic hardware shall be used.

Required panic hardware shall not be equipped with any locking or dogging device, set screw, or other arrangement which can be used to prevent the release of the latch when pressure is applied to release bar (for special locking arrangement, contact Environmental Health and Safety Department).

LOCKING OR OBSTRUCTING EXITS AND PASSAGEWAYS

A door shall be so arranged as to be readily opened from the side from which egress is to be made at all times when the building served thereby is occupied. A latch or other fastening device on a door shall be provided with a knob, handle, panic bar, or other simple type of releasing device; the method

of operation shall be obvious even in darkness.

The minimum width of any corridor shall be 44 inches in the clear. (Passageways, doors, and exits shall be free from obstructions.)

EXIT SIGNS

Every required sign designating an exit or way of exit access shall be so located and of such size, distinctive color, and design as to be readily visible and shall provide contrast with decorations, furnishings, or equipment which impair visibility of an exit sign. There shall not be any brightly illuminated sign, display, or objects in or near the line of vision to the required exit sign of such a character as to detract attention from the exit sign.

Every exit sign shall be suitably illuminated by a reliable light source. Externally and internally, illuminated signs shall be visible in the normal and emergency lighting mode.

A sign reading "EXIT" or similar designation with an arrow indicating the direction of the nearest approved exit shall be placed in every location where the direction of travel to reach the nearest exit is not immediately apparent.

EMERGENCY LIGHTING

Illumination of means of egress shall be continuous during the time that the conditions of occupancy require that the means of egress be available for use. Artificial lighting shall be employed at such places and for such periods of time required to maintain the illumination. For the purposes of this requirement, exit access shall include only designated stairs, aisles, corridors, ramps, escalators, and passageways leading to an exit.

FIRE ALARMS

Activation of the protective system shall occur by any or all of the following means but not limited thereto:

1. Manual fire alarm initiation
2. Automatic heat detection
3. Automatic smoke detection
4. Extinguishing system operations

Each manual fire alarm station of a system shall be accessible, unobstructed, visible, and of the same general type.

The general evacuation alarm shall operate throughout the entire building. Audible alarm indicating devices shall be of such character and so distributed as to be effectively heard above the ambient noise level obtained under normal conditions of occupancy.

The fire alarm and heat/smoke detection system shall be tested periodically and the results of the test recorded.

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Portable fire extinguishers shall be chosen for the class of fire expected. Class of fire refers to the

nature of the fuel involved as follows:

Class A--Fires involving ordinary combustible materials such as wood, cloth, rubber, and many plastics.

Class B--Fires involving flammable or combustible liquids, flammable gases, and similar materials.

Class C--Fires involving electrical energy.

Class D--Fires involving certain combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, sodium, potassium, etc.

NOTE: The fire class shall be designated on the extinguisher itself.

Extinguishers mounted in cabinets, wall recesses, or brackets shall be placed in such a manner that the operating instructions shall face outward. Extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured from view, and cabinets housing extinguishers shall not be locked.

Extinguishers shall be periodically checked and/or maintained, tagged, and dated.

STORAGE OF FLAMMABLES IN STATE BUILDINGS

Storage of flammable materials shall be made in fireproof containers. State buildings and public places of assembly shall be regularly policed to clean up and place in fireproof containers all flammable materials; and all places of storage shall be arranged and maintained in such a manner that exit from said places and access to said places for the purpose of fire fighting is not in any way impeded. Flammable materials include, but are not limited to paper, cigarettes, food wrappings, cardboard containers for paper, and office supplies.

NOTE: None of the above, nor gasoline, paint, or other flammable liquids shall be stored under stairwells or in halls, aisles, corridors, or passageways.

EVACUATION DIAGRAMS

Evacuation diagrams shall be placed on each floor on bulletin boards or areas where persons gather. Diagrams shall indicate where those individuals are and the safest and most direct route out of the building.

Periodic inspection of large assembly areas and unusual structures such as stadium pressbox, air supported structures, or tents shall be performed by Environmental Health and Safety Department.

NOTE: Test dates and results of emergency lights, alarm systems, and sprinkler systems can be obtained from Physical Plant.