



Mid-South Engineering Company

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Code Matters

Codes **do** matter in the building and industrial plant world.....A lot.

by Karen Griffin, Staff Architect, MSECO Hot Springs

Question:

What does the Fire Marshal mean when he refers to "EGRESS PLANS"?

Referenced Codes: The International Building Code (IBC), NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, the International Fire Code (IFC), OSHA

Answer: Egress plans are drawings, usually signed and sealed by an architect/engineer, submitted to the fire marshal or governing authority for review, which show that the egress analysis was performed and complies with the required codes.

This typically includes: *Gross and net square footages; the occupant load for each floor or space; use and occupancy classification of building, space, and/or overall facility; a note indicating if an automatic sprinkler system will be installed; a list of all codes used for the analysis; location and arrangement of all exits, stairs, and elevators, preferably labeled individually, door swing direction and main exit noted; a list of each exit capacity calculated per floor and per each different occupancy type, with totals; exit access travel distances from any point in a building/space/facility to a public way; areas of refuge and accessible exits; fire ratings of corridors if required; location of all fire alarm devices, exit signs, emergency lighting fixtures, and panic hardware, as well as source of emergency power.*

Tips:

1. Posted evacuation plans can be made using free or purchased software, but make sure all the exit routes shown are code compliant or approved by your architect/engineer. Incorrect information can be deadly.
2. Mark doors or passages along an exit access that could be mistaken for an exit "**Not an Exit**", or with a sign identifying its use. This could save a life during a fire.
3. The means of egress, including the exit discharge, shall be illuminated at all times the building space is occupied, to a level of not less than one foot-candle at the floor level. The inspecting Fire Marshal makes a point to check this one.
4. Every room or space that is an Assembly occupancy shall have the occupancy load posted. This is easily forgotten for large training rooms in office buildings, but helps a facility safety manager do his job.
5. A good way to **save money** on a project for the client, contractor, and designers is to "spot check" the egress requirements from the very beginning of the design stages. Safe and compliant EGRESS planning is probably one of the most important jobs of the designer, protecting the welfare and safety of the facility users.





Hot Springs Office



Cary Office



Millinocket Office



Bruce Westerman, Senior Engineer for the Project Planning and Development group in the Hot Springs office was elected to the United States Congress and will be leaving in January, 2015 for Washington, DC. We wish Bruce all the success for the upcoming years as one of Arkansas' U.S. Congressman.

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