



Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans,
Fire Prevention Plans, and Fire
Protection

Introduction



Fires and explosions kill more than 200 and injure more than 5,000 workers each year

There is a long and tragic history of workplace fires in this country caused by problems with fire exits and extinguishing systems

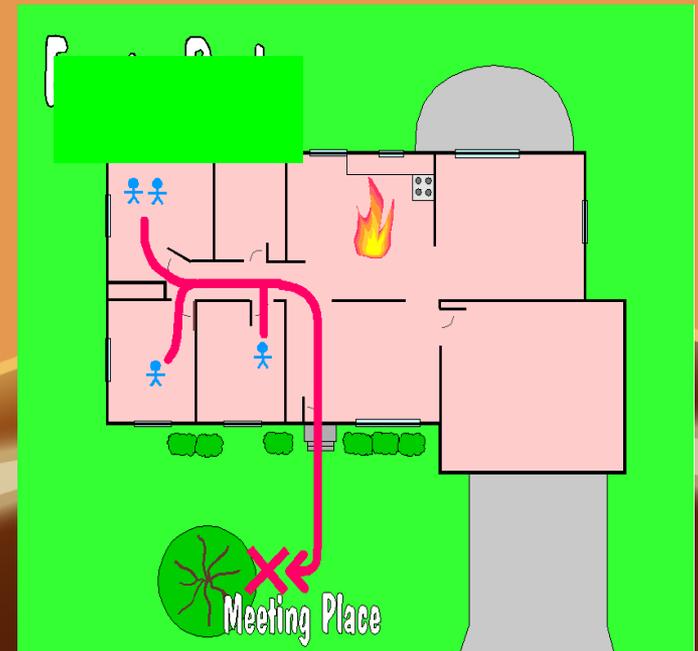
OSHA requires employers to provide proper exits, fire fighting equipment, and employee training to prevent fire deaths and injuries in the workplace

Exit Routes—definition

An exit route is a continuous and unobstructed path of exit travel from any point within a workplace to a place of safety (including refuge areas).

Consists of three parts:

- Exit access
- Exit
- Exit discharge



Exit Routes- basic requirements



- Exit routes must be permanent and there must be enough exits in the proper arrangement for quick escape
- Exits must be separated by fire-resistant materials
- Openings into an exit must be limited to those necessary to allow access to the exit or to the exit discharge
- An opening into an exit must be protected by an approved self-closing fire door that remains closed or automatically closes in an emergency

Exit Discharge



Each exit discharge must lead directly outside or to a street, walkway, refuge area, public way, or open space with access to the outside that is large enough to accommodate all building occupants likely to use the exit route

Exit stairs that continue beyond the level on which the exit discharge is located must be interrupted on that level by doors, partitions, or other effective means that clearly indicate the direction of travel to the exit discharge

Exit Doors Must Be Unlocked

Locked and
blocked exit



Must be able to open from the inside at all times without keys, tools, or special knowledge

Device such as a panic bar that locks only from the outside is permitted

Must be free of any device or alarm that could restrict emergency use if the device or alarm fails

May be locked from the inside only in mental, penal, or correctional facilities where there is constant supervision

Side-Hinged Exit Door

- Must be used to connect any room to an exit route
- A door that connects any room to an exit route must swing out in the direction of exit travel if the room is designed to be occupied by more than 50 people or contains high hazard contents

Exit Route Capacity and Dimensions

- Must support the maximum permitted occupant load for each floor served
- Capacity must not decrease in the direction of exit route travel to the exit discharge
- Ceiling must be at least 7-½ ft. high with no projection reaching a point less than 6 ft.-8 in. from floor
- An exit access must be at least 28 in. wide at all points

Minimize Danger to Employees

Obstructed exit
route



- Exit routes must be free and unobstructed
- Keep exit routes free of explosive or highly flammable materials
- Arrange exit routes so that employees will not have to travel toward a high hazard area, unless it is effectively shielded
- Emergency safeguards (e.g., sprinkler systems, alarm systems, fire doors, exit lighting) must be in proper working order at all times

Exit Marking

- Each exit must be clearly visible and marked with an “Exit” sign
- Each exit route door must be free of decorations or signs that obscure the visibility of the door



Exit Marking

The plan must include:

If the direction of travel to the exit or exit discharge is not immediately apparent, signs must be posted along the exit access indicating direction to the nearest exit

The line-of-sight to an exit sign must clearly be visible at all times

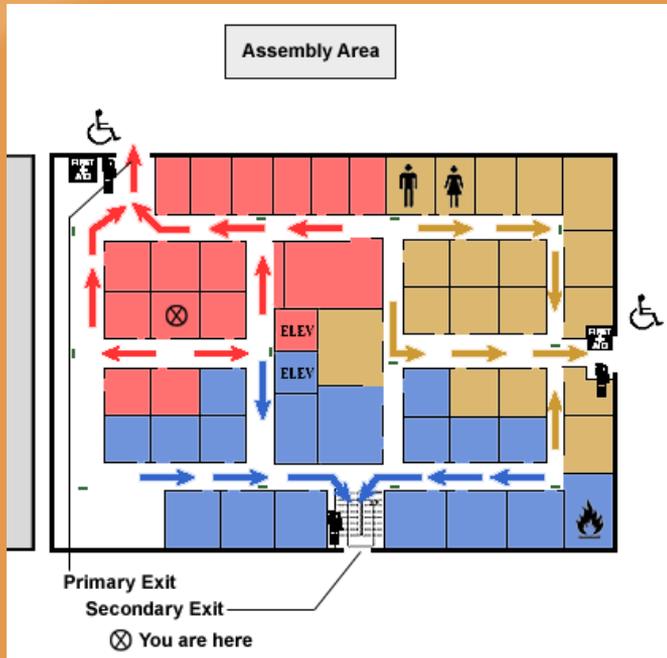
Exit Marking



Each doorway or passage along an exit access that could be mistaken for an exit must be marked “Not an Exit” or similar designation, or be identified by a sign indicating its actual use (e.g., closet).

Emergency Action Plan

- Describes actions that must be taken to ensure employee safety in emergencies
- Includes floor plans or maps which show emergency escape routes
- Tells employees what actions to take in emergency situations
- Covers reasonably expected emergencies, such as fires, explosions, toxic chemical releases, hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, and floods



Fire Prevention Plan

The plan must include:

- A list of the major fire hazards and handling, storage, and control procedures
- Names or job titles of persons responsible for maintenance of equipment and systems to prevent or control ignitions or fires
- Names or job titles of persons responsible for control of fuel source hazards
- Training for all employees who have responsibilities in the plan

Portable Fire Extinguishers

If portable fire extinguishers are provided for employee use, the employer must mount, locate and identify them so workers can access them without subjecting themselves to possible injury. Locate the nearest fire extinguisher to your office or work area and visually inspect it once a month for the following:

1. Safety Pin is installed
2. Pressure gauge needle is in the green
3. Hose is attached and free of obstruction

Blocked extinguisher



Extinguisher Classification & Markings

Letters



Class A ordinary combustibles wood, cloth, paper



Class B – flammable liquids, gases, greases



Class C – energized electrical equipment

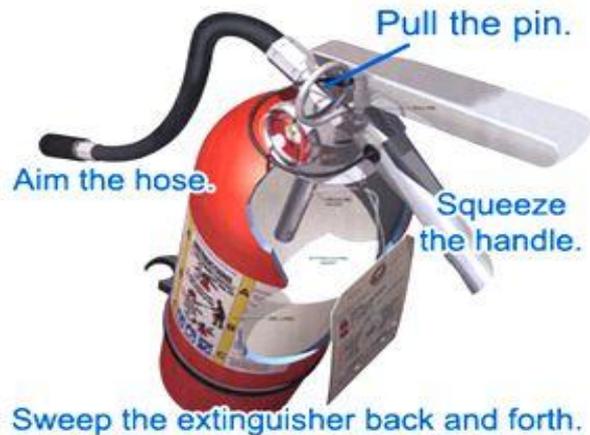


Class D – combustible metals

Markings

			Suitable for Class B and Class C fires but not Class A
			Suitable for Class A fires but not Class B or Class C
			Suitable for Class A and Class B fires but not Class C

How to use a Fire Extinguisher? PASS



To operate an extinguisher: (Check your own extinguisher's label for detailed instructions.)



Pull the safety pin at the top of the extinguisher, breaking the plastic or thin seal in the process.

Aim the nozzle or horn at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the carrying handle and the discharge handle together to start the flow of agent.

Sweep the nozzle back and forth. Move forward while sweeping the nozzle from side to side. Cover the fire until it is completely extinguished.

Maintaining Portable Fire Extinguishers

Maintain in a fully charged and operable condition

Keep in designated places at all times except during use

Conduct monthly inspection check as well as an annual maintenance check

Record annual maintenance date

Retain record for one year after the last entry or the life of the shell, whichever is less.



Summary

There must be enough exits in the proper arrangement for quick escape. Exit routes must be marked, lighted, free of obstructions with unlocked doors.

An emergency action plan and fire prevention plan must be in place. Fire extinguishers must be inspected and maintained. Employees must be trained in how to use them.

QUIZ

Click on the link below to take a 5-Question Quiz.

<https://secure.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/insquiz/fireext.aspx>

Click link, enter SSN with dashes, take quiz, click submit. Your training will be recorded.

Questions or requests-

Kelli Perrien, Wellness & Safety Coordinator

kperrien@rutherfordcountyttn.gov, 615-898-7715