



Emergency Exits — Designated Pats

Overview

All buildings designed for human occupancy must have a way of allowing occupants fast exit to the outside in case of an emergency. These means of egress (exit routes) can be hallways, corridors, balconies, ramps, stairs, or lobbies. The designated paths of exit must be arranged and maintained to provide a free and unobstructed means to exit all parts of the building at all times. Employers must also ensure that these paths are accessible to occupants who have impaired mobility.

Employers must provide adequate exit routes and exits for employees to leave the workplace safely in case of an emergency, according to §1910 Subpart E – Means of Egress.

Compliance with OSHA's egress requirements ensures that when people need to have a safe and efficient means of leaving a building in an emergency, the exit route will be there and they will have minimal problems finding and using it.

What is an 'exit route?'

An 'exit route' is a continuous and unobstructed path of exit travel from any point within a workplace to safety outside. An exit route generally consists of three parts: access to the exit; the exit, which provides a way of travel out of the workplace; and the way from the exit to the outside.

At least two exit routes that are remote from each other must be available. This ensures alternate means for employees to leave the workplace safely during an emergency. If one route is unavailable, there must always be another exit route available in another part of the building.

Exits must lead directly outside or to an open space with access to the outside. The area beyond the exit has to have enough room to accommodate the people who are likely to use the exit.

Exit doors must be able to be readily opened without having to use keys, tools, or special knowledge. Exit doors cannot have any alarm or device that would restrict emergency use of the exit if the device fails.

An exit route must be able to support the maximum-permitted occupant load for each floor of the building that is served by the exit route. The exit route's capacity must not decrease along the direction of exit travel.



How are exits to be marked?

Exits must be marked by a readily visible sign. Every exit sign shall be distinctive in color and shall provide contrast with decorations, interior finish, or other signs.

Employee Training

Create and share an emergency and fire prevention plan.

Training Tips

Point out a representative exit signs for your facility.

Review any existing Emergency Action Plan with the employees, especially as it relates to exiting the facility and outside assembly areas.



Sample Safety Meeting Agenda

1. ACCIDENTS, INJURIES, NEAR-MISSES, DISCUSS:

- Incidents that have occurred in your company since the last meeting.
- Any follow-up that has been done as a result of investigations into incidents.
- Incidents that have happened in other companies.
- Updates to the company's Accident Prevention Plan from "lessons learned."

2. RESULTS OF SAFETY INSPECTIONS.

- Discuss the results of recent safety inspections.
- Follow up on assignments for eliminating or controlling identified hazards.
- Encourage employees to identify any unsafe conditions or tasks.
- Discuss ways to eliminate or control the hazards.
- When appropriate, assign responsibilities for eliminating or controlling identified hazards.

3. TRAINING.

- Discuss any new safe work procedures or other policies and procedures that need to be implemented.
- Safety Topic of the Month: a presentation and discussion on the chosen topic.

4. OPEN FORUM.

- Any one who has a concern about safety and health should bring it up for discussion.

5. NEXT MEETING.

- Set the time, date, and place for the next meeting.
- Select a Safety Topic and designate the presenter/discussion leader.



Employee Sign-in Sheet

Persons attending this meeting:

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

