

What's the Risk?

Emergency Lighting



THE ISSUE

The purpose of emergency lighting is to ensure adequate visibility is provided when normal lighting fails. A minimum amount of light is required to provide easy identification of an exit.

Exit signs are required in a public facility to indicate the location of exits in case of an emergency. The National Building Code requires that, "every exit door shall have an exit sign placed over or adjacent to it." These signs should be made visible by either internal or external illumination that continues when the normal power supply is not maintained.



WHAT'S THE RISK?

Inadequate lighting and non-visible exit signage can cause delays in the identification of emergency exit routes, and ultimately the evacuation of a building. In an emergency, unnecessary delays in exiting can result in death.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The following is specified by the National Building Code:

- Equip every exit door with an exit sign
- Use arrow signs to indicate the direction of the exit if the exit sign is not visible on approach
- Emergency lighting (10 lux at floor level) should mark principle exit routes
- Ensure all exit signs function on their own power and have an emergency power supply (e.g. generator or battery)

