



Carnegie Mellon University

Environmental Health & Safety

FIRE | LAB | WORK

Means of Egress

The goal of providing occupants a safe means of escape, or egress, is a fundamental concept in life safety design. When we talk about the term Egress or Means of Egress, we are referring to a continuous and unobstructed path of travel from any point in a building to a public way, such as a sidewalk.

Best Practices

- All components of the means of egress must remain unobstructed and free from any storage, even temporarily. This includes pathways out of rooms, corridors and hallways, stairways, exit doors, ramps and even the pathways outside of buildings.



Examples of obstructed egress

- The exit discharge should be free from any trip hazards and have a clear unobstructed path that leads to a public way. Snow, ice, mud, moss and other foreign materials should be removed as soon as possible.
- Never install equipment or any device on a wall that protrudes more than 4 inches.

- Fire doors for stairways must never be blocked open or prevented from automatically closing.



- Never add a locking device to any door that has not been approved by the Facilities Management and Campus Services (FMCS) Department as well as the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Department.
- Exit signs should be illuminated at all times and emergency lighting should illuminate during a power outage. If you find an exit sign or emergency light that is not functioning properly or damaged, you can send an email to fixit@andrew.cmu.edu to have the exit light repaired or replaced.

Did You Know?

In addition to the potentially fatal consequences, the university can be fined up to \$1,000 per day, per violation, for storage within a means of egress!

Safety concern, training request or other inquiry?
Reach out to the **Environmental Health and Safety Department** today!
safety@andrew.cmu.edu
412-268-8182