

## PROVIDE/MAINTAIN EXIT SIGN/EMERGENCY LIGHTING

### CODE SECTIONS

#### *2010 Yocha Dehe Fire Code*

**Section 1011.1 Where Required.** Exits and exit access doors shall be marked by an approved exit sign readily visible from any direction of egress travel. The path of egress travel to exits and within exits shall be marked by readily visible exit signs to clearly indicate the direction of egress travel in cases where the exit or the path of egress travel is not immediately visible to the occupants. Intervening means of egress doors within exits shall be by exit signs. Exit sign placement shall be such that no point in an exit access corridor or exit passageway is more than 100 feet or the listed viewing distance for the sign, whichever is less, from the nearest visible exit sign.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

1. Rooms or areas which require only one exit or exit access (as long as the door is readily identifiable).
2. Main exterior exit doors which obviously and clearly are identifiable as exit doors need not have exit signs when approved by the building official.
3. Exit signs are not required in occupancies in Group U and individual sleeping units or dwelling units in Group R-1, R-2, R-3 or R-3.1
4. Exit signs are not required where inmates are housed, or held in occupancies in Group I-3.

**Section 1011.2 Illumination.** Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated.

**Section 1011.5.1 Graphics.** The color and design of lettering, arrows and other symbols on exit signs shall be in high contrast with their background. Exit signs shall have the word "EXIT" on the sign in block capital letters not less than 6 inches in height with a stroke of not less than 3/4 inch. The word "EXIT" shall have letters having a width of not less than 2 inches except for the letter "I" and a minimum spacing between letters of not less than 3/4 inch. Signs with lettering larger than the minimum dimensions established herein shall have the letter width, stroke and spacing in proportion to their height.

**Section 1011.5.3 Power Source.** All exit signs shall be illuminated at all times. To ensure continued illumination for a duration of not less than 1-1/2 hours in case of primary power loss, the exit signs shall additionally be connected to an emergency electrical system provided from storage batteries, unit equipment or an on-site generator set and the system shall be installed in accordance with the Chapter 27 of the California Building Code.

**EXCEPTION:** Approved exit sign illumination means that provide continuous illumination independent of external power sources for duration of not less than 90 minutes, in cases of primary power loss, are not required to be connected to an emergency electrical system.

**Section 1011.6 Floor-level Exit Signs.** Where exit signs are required by the Building Code, additional approved low-level exit signs which are internally or externally illuminated, photoluminescence or self-luminous, shall be provided in all interior corridors of Group A, E, I and R-2.1 occupancies and in all interior rated in Group R, Division 1 Occupancies.

The bottom of such sign shall not be less than 6 inches nor more than 8 inches above the floor level and shall indicate the path of exit travel. For exit and exit-access doors, the sign shall be on the door or adjacent to the door with the closest edge of the sign within 4 inches of the door frame.

## EXPLANATION

Whenever two or more exits from a room or a building are required, each exit must have an exit sign over each exit. Exit signs are not required if the room or building requires only one exit. Also, exit signs indicating a route to an exit is required if the exit door is not easily seen from all points in the room or building.

Any time an exit sign is required, it must be illuminated. This can be accomplished either through light bulbs inside the sign; by light bulbs shining on the sign from above; or by a self-illuminating sign. Except for the self-illuminating sign, back-up power must be provided to illuminate the exit sign in the event of a power outage. This can be provided by batteries or by an automatic generator.

Exit signs shall be visible at all times and shall not be obstructed.

Whenever a building is occupied, the exit or exits shall be illuminated. This illumination is normally provided by the light fixtures already in the building or by natural light during daylight hours. Additional lighting shall be installed if the exit is not clearly visible.

Back-up or emergency power lights are required to illuminate the exits as required by Code.

## RATIONALE

Occupants of a building must always be able to locate an exit. Illuminated exit signs and directional arrows assist occupants in locating the exit. The exit path and door must also be illuminated so people can easily find the way to the exit and out to a public way without having to find their way in the dark.

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