



### Safety Issue:

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In case of emergency, prompt evacuation of a facility may be the most important factor in saving lives. Proper exit routes are necessary for safe and swift evacuation.

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### Legal Issues

**OSHA regulations: 29 CFR 1910.36; .37**

**Comments:** OSHA spells out in detail design and construction requirements for exit routes. The standards also mandate maintenance, safeguards and operational features. Provisions include the safe use of exit routes during an emergency, lighting and marking exit routes, fire retardant paints, exit routes during construction repairs, or alterations, and employee alarm system.

### Management Issues

There are several factors involved for management to review regarding exit routes.

- ✓ Checking the routes themselves to ensure that exit routes from any spot within the facility meet the design and construction requirements specified in the standards.

- ✓ Ensuring that the routes are clean and unobstructed at all times.
- ✓ Establishing frequent inspection schedules of all exit routes.
- ✓ Posting diagrams of the facility that indicate the proper exit routes from a particular location.

### Training Issues

Your employees must be prepared to act quickly in case of emergency. They should be trained to:

- ✓ Know the sound of the emergency alarm system.
- ✓ Know at least two exit routes from their workstations.
- ✓ Expect that, in case of a fire, it may be smoky and hard to see or breathe.
- ✓ Remember to move quickly—but not to run or panic.
- ✓ Know any emergency duties they should perform.



- ✓ Know where to meet outside.
- ✓ Go to the assigned meeting area immediately.
- ✓ Avoid interfering with emergency operations.

## Take Action

Remember: Holding regular evacuation drills will help everyone to respond automatically and correctly in case of a real emergency.