## FIRE SAFETY & FACILITY SECURITY



### DEVIANT OLLAM (HE/THEY)

Associated Locksmiths of America #102347 Safe and Vault Technicians of America #SR26105 International Association of Investigative Locksmiths #2468 GSA Safe and Vault Technician and Inspector #42992 Life Safety NFPA & ADA Consultant and Fire Door Inspector #102347

# <section-header><section-header>

If you're a screenwriter or an author of thriller novels, this one's a freebie that you can use



Car chase, maybe some gunfire through rolled down windows It ends in a crash



Our protagonist awakens in a hospital setting. Vague memories of the car wreck.

Unattended, but they know that people are going to be coming for them soon.

They gather themselves, quietly exit to the hallway.



Currently they're in a hospital gown.

There are people in this wing, but no one seems to be stationed outside their room. Does the hospital know they were being pursued? Maybe they're lucky and their guard is away on a brief break. They might be coming back from a vending machine in moments.

Our hero needs to not look like someone who belongs in a hospital bed



They furtively move across the hall from their room and enter a linen storage area. They put on a set of hospital scrubs and grab a facemask. There's even a pair of white medical sneakers. Not exactly our protagonist's size, but beggars can't be choosers.



Feeling as if they can walk with a bit more freedom of movement, even while others are in the hallway with them going from room to room.. our hero walks down a few corridors, looking for a way out. Overhead exit signage points them right and then left and ultimately to this door.

There's something distinctly odd about this door, in my view.

There's a person further down the hall in front of them



There's a person 10 or 20 yards ahead of them, heading to the door. But then our protagonist notices that instead of merely pushing the touchbar on the door hardware...



...the person presents a badge to the wall-mounted credential reader before exiting.

The door closes swiftly behind that employee, with our protagonist arriving at the door just as it settles back into place. Pushing on the touchbar does not release it; it remains locked.



When our hero ultimately arrives at the door (which has now already closed and re-locked) the signage on the door makes clear what some of you have already maybe noticed



This is a mechanically-latching door but it ALSO is equipped with magnetic locks tied to the access control system. Without a badge, this door isn't opening, even though it's a designated exit. (This is an example of something known as "Controlled Egress" and only found in very specific places such as certain kinds of hospitals, rehab centers, and detention centers)

Our main character doesn't like standing here seemingly without an agenda. They want to get out... NOW.

So what do they do?



Power failure is likely something that would cause the maglocks to deactivate. They look back down the hall for a wall-mounted breaker panel. No dice.





The sign on the door to the side indicates a service closet. The door is locked, but our hero grabs a folder for containing patient charts.

The folder, made of a thick plastic, works as a door shim and they slip inside this small room



No breaker panel in this small closet, either. But there's a mop and bucket.

They take the long mope handle, look up...



...and BANG! they smash into the fire sprinker head against the ceiling

Water starts to spurt and flow from the overhead pipe.



Our protagonist quickly exits the closet, pulling it shut behind them, and...



...and they enter this restroom directly across the hall. They make a brief show of using the sink to wash and dry their hands while some other staff member enters and uses one of the stalls.

In their head, our hero is simply counting to about 20 or 30 seconds. Then they exit back to the hallway...



...just as they reach the door, strobes and sounders from the building's fire alarm start to go off.



Our hero pushes against the egress bar and the door, with mag locks now deactivated, opens easily.



As they proceed into a waiting room lobby area, the triage nurse has stood from their desk and is attempting to corral the various patients to the exit. Our hero grabs a coat that's draped over the nurse's chair and blends in with the various patients and now additional facility staff who are also discharging from that same doorway and walks directly outside.

Without looking back, they don the coat and proceed through the parking lot, feeling in the pockets for a car key fob.



They press the panic button and hear the sound of a beeping horn off in the distance to one side. Casting their eyes that way, the can identify this as what appears to be the staff parking lot. They silence the alarm.

While employees and doctors and others are mustering at points of assembly and various section managers are doing headcounts, our hero walks through the staff lot, quietly pressing the unlock button sporadically and looking for which car's blinker lights flash.



They enter the car, the ignition starts, and they quietly and calmly pull out of the lot...



...and, like that. Poof. They're gone.





Pull stations DO NOT HAVE TO unlock controlled egress doors in secure environments



Smoke detector isn't a bad idea

But, again if this is a more secure environment, often it may take TWO OR MORE smoke detectors going off to trigger egress conditions

### THIS IS JUST HOW MY BRAIN WORKS





Normally I'm breaking INTO places, not out of them. But I have lots of knowledge like this.

### IT'S SURPRISINGLY EASY TO BREAK INTO MANY PLACES



HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET





In a lot of that footage (indeed, on a lot of my jobs overall) building code and fire code play a HUGE role in helping me slip into places.

We have plenty of other talks about that, however. And I can't give you a full breakdown of every entry technique we use. (I've done that in loads of other talks, not to mention a lot of you folk probably already know them!)

But what happens once you ARE inside somewhere and you get challenged or asked how you got in?



Building codes are written such that life safety is paramount. It is more important than controlling access.

Door hardware is built and installed with that priority in mind. Many of the techniques I showed in those previous examples generate responses like "oh my gosh, why did they install the hardware that way?! I would install it this other way..."

Those responses showcase an ignorance of fire code and building code regulations. Often, you **can't** install door hardware in ways that would be more "secure"

# "Excuse Me... May I Help You?"





Part of my job is also interacting with security guards and other staff who challenge me for being in secured areas. I've had to talk my way out of a number of situations because people were surprised to encounter me.



This is literally an employee calling his superiors because he didn't believe why my colleague and I were discovered in this factory building on a Sunday
# Fire Codes Help Me Here, Too



# HAVE A REASON TO BE THERE



## "LOOK LIKE YOU BELONG THERE"



## "Excuse Me... May I Help You?"



HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET



## FIRE CODES AFFORD US FAKE PERSONAE



## ROUTINE SERVICE & REGULATORY INSPECTION AS FAKE PERSONAE



## NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET



Hazard Diamond



Hazard Diamond



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXSNA3cIYKs





We speak of the "I-Codes"



Knowing codes (or violating codes) can have major impacts for businesses... thousands if not hundreds of thousands in fines and other costs. People really do not want to play around with getting these things wrong.

For me, though, I just find this fun and interesting... not to mention useful at times!

# LET'S TALK ABOUT NOT DYING IN FIRES





HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET



December 30, 1903

In just 17 minutes... 602 deaths, 250 injuries

Not enough extinguishers (and no training), faulty fire curtain (and no training), ventilation hatches sealed.

Not enough exits, exits locked, and doors inoperable/hidden/decorative. Horrible exterior fire escape. no sprinklers, alarms, telephones, or water connections.



December 30, 1903

In just 17 minutes... 602 deaths, 250 injuries

Not enough extinguishers (and no training), faulty fire curtain (and no training), ventilation hatches sealed.

Not enough exits, exits locked, and doors inoperable/hidden/decorative. Horrible exterior fire escape. no sprinklers, alarms, telephones, or water connections.



December 30, 1903

In just 17 minutes... 602 deaths, 250 injuries

Not enough extinguishers (and no training), faulty fire curtain (and no training), ventilation hatches sealed.

Not enough exits, exits locked, and doors inoperable/hidden/decorative. Horrible exterior fire escape. no sprinklers, alarms, telephones, or water connections.



December 30, 1903

In just 17 minutes... 602 deaths, 250 injuries

Not enough extinguishers (and no training), faulty fire curtain (and no training), ventilation hatches sealed.

Not enough exits, exits locked, and doors inoperable/hidden/decorative. Horrible exterior fire escape. no sprinklers, alarms, telephones, or water connections.





Bascule-type latch on many doors (the ones that were real doors) unknown to many Americans



## Iroquois Theatre Fire

December 30, 1903

In just 17 minutes... 602 deaths, 250 injuries



#### Lake View School fire

March 4, 1908

172 students, 2 teachers, and 1 rescuer (almost half of the children)

building had only two exits front vestibule was a bottleneck path to the rear door exit narrowed



#### Lake View School fire

March 4, 1908

172 students, 2 teachers, and 1 rescuer (almost half of the children)

building had only two exits front vestibule was a bottleneck path to the rear door exit narrowed



### **Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire**

March 25, 1911

146 (mostly young women) perished

stairwells too narrow

only one fire exit (flimsy, led to back garden) too few exits, and most kept locked (to deter unscheduled breaks)

Firefighters couldn't get water up that high (7 or 8 floors then, as today)

Firefighter ladders couldn't go high enough (7 or 8 floors even today w/105' ladder)

HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET

In the US most ladder trucks are 75 to 105 feet. There may be some specialty ladder trucks around that reach to 125 feet.



### Carl Prinzler

Manager of the Builders Hardware Department at the **Vonnegut** Hardware Company

### Henry H. DuPont

architect and engineer neighbor

In 1965, Vonnegut Hardware Company was sold to Schlage (now Allegion)



### Carl Prinzler

Manager of the Builders Hardware Department at the **Vonnegut** Hardware Company

### Henry H. DuPont

architect and engineer neighbor

In 1965, Vonnegut Hardware Company was sold to Schlage (now Allegion)



# FIRE SAFETY TODAY IS SERIOUS BUSINESS



Modern fire codes are pretty much a product of the 19teens and 1920s and beyond, always evolving







# HERE'S HOW TO SOUND LIKE YOU KNOW ABOUT ALL THREE OF THOSE TOPICS



# PART 1 - SPRINKLER SYSTEMS





1812 - Sir William Congreve (UK) – perforated pipes with valve outside

1873 – Hiram Maxim (of the machine gun) – "automated" system involving carbonic acid (CO2 production) and a kind of heat sensor

1874 - Henry S. Parmalee (New Haven, CT) – first automatic fire sprinkler system using solder that melted in a fire to unplug holes. 10 customers

1881 - Frederick Grinnell (Mass and Rhode Island) – licensed and sold Parmalee design but then improved it... increased sensitivity by removing the fusible joint from all contact with the water


If you've ever been in a back stairwell of a large building, etc etc

This is the main assembly. See the red boxes: the pressure switch triggered by the alarm check valve (top) and the supervisory switch (near the gate valve controls)

### FIRE SUPPRESSION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS





You'll often see gauges. These show pressure in the system pipes and also pressure from the main supply pipes.



These large values that you see are called Gate Values, as you can imagine they control water flow



If you mess with them, there will be an alarm, as they are monitored



There are also automated valves and other monitoring systems. This check valve (if water starts flowing)



Releases water to the side pipe and triggers this sensor

# <section-header>

Normally water would be flowing "up" if a sprinkler system activates. That causes the check valve to pop up, sending pressurized water flowing through the side assembly (there's a small chamber to prevent natural water pressure fluctuations from triggering alarms) and ultimately the alarm sensor will trip (20 to 30 seconds is common, but can be as much as 90 seconds. Should never be over 90)

### FIRE SUPPRESSION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS



Normally water would be flowing "up" if a sprinkler system activates. That causes the check valve to pop up, sending pressurized water flowing through the side assembly (there's a small chamber to prevent natural water pressure fluctuations from triggering alarms) and ultimately the alarm sensor will trip (20 to 30 seconds is common, but can be as much as 90 seconds. Should never be over 90)

# FIRE SUPPRESSION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS



Normally water would be flowing "up" if a sprinkler system activates. That causes the check valve to pop up, sending pressurized water flowing through the side assembly (there's a small chamber to prevent natural water pressure fluctuations from triggering alarms) and ultimately the alarm sensor will trip (20 to 30 seconds is common, but can be as much as 90 seconds. Should never be over 90)



So, yes... discharge from a sprinkler head should set off the fire alarms and send alerts to systems elsewhere in the building. FACP, bacNET, etc. And that can unlock doors.



These systems get tested. That's a good reason to have an excuse to look around buildings, be in "non public" areas, etc.



Recessed "skirt"













### FIRE SUPPRESSION SPRINKLER BULBS

ORDINARY ORDINARY INTERMEDIATE INTERMEDIATE HIGH EXTRA HIGH



135°F (57°C) 155°F (68°C) 175°F (79°C) 200°F (93°C) 286°F (141°C) 360°F (182°C)



### HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET

### Yes, orange is before red. That annoys the crap out of me, too.

Ordinary - Orange and Red – residential and many commercial settings Intermediate - Yellow – higher risk, warehouses Intermediate - Green – high risk, chemical storage areas High - Blue – very high risk, boiler rooms and furnaces Extra High - Purple – flammable liquid storage areas Very Extra and Ultra High - Black – Industrial ovens and furnaces



## There are even black bulbs that range from 375°F (191°C) to 625°F (329°C) called "very extra high" and "ultra high" etc etc

Ordinary - Orange and Red – residential and many commercial settings Intermediate - Yellow – higher risk, warehouses Intermediate - Green – high risk, chemical storage areas High - Blue – very high risk, boiler rooms and furnaces Extra High - Purple – flammable liquid storage areas Very Extra and Ultra High - Black – Industrial ovens and furnaces

(Sprinkler heads aren't thought of as a serviced and replaceable part but they technically are due to be replaced every 95 years)



Not advocating you actually do the inspection test unless you know what you're doing... alarm sounders and strobes not to mention very likely an automated signal to their monitoring company





Certain Inspections are typically done by two people, so this works best as a twoperson team... but you can often fool unknowning members of the public. Especially if you're not actually doing tests, just doing "preliminary site survey" or other made up things. In general, there are four kinds of inspectors...

Annual sprinkler testers (going into the flow control rooms) Annual fire detector testers (using testing spray) Annual extinguisher inspectors (tags, etc. If a space can be occupied, it should have an extinguisher) **NFPA10** Twice Annual special hazards inspectors (kitchens, combustible goods,

In larger buildings, it's less common to remember the previous appointment

chemicals, etc)

In larger buildings, it's less common to remember the previous appointment techs

If you ever encounter software or a control pad that wants you to authenticate... try 111111 or 123456



Asking to be let into the riser room is a good reason to interact with building management or security. Or saying that you're looking for the riser room is a good reason to be outside sniffing around



You don't generally want to touch stuff in the riser room (enabling/disabling controls for the main pump, the jockey pump, or the diesel pump.)

in this case we have a supplemental diesel-powered pump to augment the water pressure. (Those are covered in NFPA 20.)



Saying that you're trying to identify the main drain is another decent reason to be in service areas or otherwise "not sure where you're going"



Main drains for testing often discharge outside. Can be inconspicuous... again, good reason to be poking around. "we have to be sure the water won't discharge onto anything that's a problem" (like these power cables)



Can be out front, too. Again, you can say you're ensuring safety and no damage, etc.



Here we have a main drain that is not piped elsewhere. This system may not be in compliance with NFPA 13 or 13R  $\,$ 

### A NOTE ABOUT SPRINKLER VALVE LOCKS



HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET



Main assembly. See the red boxes: the pressure switch triggered by the alarm check valve (top) and the supvervisory switch (near the gate valve controls)



This is a Zone Control Valve portion of the system

Sprinkler valve chain and lock correctly installed



Sprinkler valve chain and lock correctly installed



Sprinkler valve chain and lock .... Anything looking wrong here?



Sprinkler valve chain and lock .... Anything looking wrong here?

Yeah... it's not going through the valve wheel at all.






gate valve (indicating variety)



post valve (indicating variety) and some kind of siamese connection behind that

# "LOOK LIKE YOU BELONG THERE"





"blue collar guy" or "polo shirt and matching hat guy"



handheld (a.k.a. "portable") fire extinguishers are covered under NFPA 10 and that's a separate possible pretext you can use if you want to walk around to other areas in the building.

annual inspections

extinguisher signage should be visible from about 50' away





#### **GREETING AND PROCEDURE**



Companies like Siemens or Johnson Controls are generally not optimal at communicating in advance to customers. Service folk will often just kind of "show up"

- 1. Go to reception
- 2. Ask for building engineer or facilities
- 3. "I'm here for the annual inspection of [insert thing]"
- 4. Show a work order if you have one (own company paperwork, not Johnson Controls or Siemens paperwork)

•••

5. Leaving the site "alright, we're all done... we'll send you paperwork" (or digital signature for High Hazard)

6. Leave keys at reception or with your point of contact on the way out



## ACCESSORIES: CONTRACTOR CLIPBOARD





Inspection tags. Good source of intel on who is their Fire Service contractor.

We have our own that we made to match our polos and hats, etc

but you can just buy them



**Green inspection tag –** system is in full compliance with the appropriate NFPA standard.

**Yellow noncompliance inspection tag –** system found with items of noncompliance, but still in a state of operational readiness. System may be out of compliance with appropriate NFPA standard.

**Red impairment tag-** system is impaired and non-operational, causing the system to be out of service and out of compliance with NFPA standards.

Yellow tags require that a letter of noncompliant conditions be sent to the building owner/authorized representative within five days of the inspection.

Red tags require a letter of emergency of impairment conditions be sent to the building owner/authorized representative and to the building occupant within 24 hours of inspection.



They have all kinds of accessories. Having some signs and such on your clipboard, etc.



What if you want to pull up in a service vehicle?



When you choose a rental car...



... maybe go for a nice mid-size white pickup



Turn your rental car into a "field service vehicle"



Cherry on top (literally) is an amber blinky (don't even have to turn it on)



This section covered wet pipe, basically. There are others which we didn't talk about. Mental device I have...

Wet pipe: concerns about budget

Dry pipe: concerns about freezing

Pre-Action: concerns about damage

Deluge: concerns about disaster

(this image is a gaseous (non-water) system, using FM-200. deployed between 6% and 9%, no mandatory evac time, suppresses fire by absorbing heat energy at its molecular level faster than the heat can be generated and forming free radicals to chemically interfere with the combustion chain reaction)



gaseous (non-water) system, using FM-200

deployed between 6% and 9%, no mandatory evac time, suppresses fire by absorbing heat energy at its molecular level faster than the heat can be generated and forming free radicals to chemically interfere with the combustion chain reaction



You can't actually remove other people's tags. You can't install your own.

And you personally can't flag a facility for a violation.

# PART 2 - EXIT AND EGRESS REGULATIONS





2660 Main St Bridgeport CT

Medical Building. Video starts upstairs. The elevator leads directly to their lobby check-in area. Public building, staff and patients coming and going for doctor's appointments, etc.

Maybe they want to encourage elevator use, not the stairwell, but the stairwell is clearly the marked emergency exit. And in a fire, that elevator will recall to the lobby and be out of service.



2660 Main St Bridgeport CT

Medical Building. Video starts upstairs. The elevator leads directly to their lobby check-in area. Public building, staff and patients coming and going for doctor's appointments, etc.

Maybe they want to encourage elevator use, not the stairwell, but the stairwell is clearly the marked emergency exit. And in a fire, that elevator will recall to the lobby and be out of service.



Humans are unpredictable under duress, humans need validation



Exit Access --> Exit --> Exit Discharge (all these together are the "Egress" or "Egress Path")

"A **continuous** and **unobstructed** way of travel from any point in a building or structure to a public way consisting of three separate and distinct parts: (1) the exit access, (2) the exit, and (3) the exit discharge" NFPA 101, §3.3.172

Egress paths need certain things...





### SIGNALING DEVICES



HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET





Another excuse to be up against buildings, etc. A great way to compliment staff (most building exits are unobstructed)



You will find *lots* of violations here.

This one, in a hotel in NYC where I was staying in Oct of 2023, is particularly egregious



Lori Greene posted this photo which is from a Fire Dept training facility

"storage under stairs, in stair enclosure." I-Codes 1023.1 General



IBC: Doors in the means of egress shall be readily distinguishable from the adjacent construction and finishes such that the doors are easily recognizable as doors. Mirrors or similar reflecting materials shall not be used on means of egress doors. Means of egress doors shall not be concealed by curtains, drapes, decorations or similar materials.

NFPA 101: Exit access and exit doors shall be designed and arranged to be clearly recognizable. Hangings or draperies shall not be placed over exit doors or located so that they conceal or obscure any exit, unless otherwise provided in 7.5.2.2.2.

"Door must be distinguishable and readily identifiable" (the NFPA allows for some circumstances of disguising doors to deter egressseeking by patients. IBC doesn't speak to this)

Photo: Lori Greene

#### FURNISHINGS AND DECORATIONS CANNOT OBSTRUCT OR CONFUSE



IBC: Doors in the means of egress shall be readily distinguishable from the adjacent construction and finishes such that the doors are easily recognizable as doors. Mirrors or similar reflecting materials shall not be used on means of egress doors. Means of egress doors shall not be concealed by curtains, drapes, decorations or similar materials.

NFPA 101: Exit access and exit doors shall be designed and arranged to be clearly recognizable. Hangings or draperies shall not be placed over exit doors or located so that they conceal or obscure any exit, unless otherwise provided in 7.5.2.2.2.

"Door must be distinguishable and readily identifiable"

Photo: Lori Greene


Can't have mirrors on emergency exits



Again... not a bad social engineering cover story: "we're verifying safe operation of the emergency exits" etc etc

Emergency lighting is often tested by either the fire alarm testers or fire extinguisher inspectors

- Square pushbutton to test
- Voltage test the batteries with a standalone tester



note - "unlatching" is not "opening" (so like pressure on a lever handle in a rotating manner unlatches the door, but then you have to push on the door perhaps)

there are exceptions to low occupancy residencies like apartments, hotel rooms, etc... occupant load often 3 or less



This is why Under Door Attacks are so feasible nowadays



This is why Under Door Attacks are so feasible nowadays





ADA Standard for Accessible Design states that interior door hardware should be operable with 5 pounds of force, maximum. It's an aggressive target and not everyone meets it yet, but that's the trend in the industry... trend toward increasing accessibility, always





Here we see the main latch (in the middle where the bars come together, connecting the doors to one another) as well as top and bottom surface-mount vertical rods

Codes do not *prohibit* more than one locking or latching device installed on a door

- however -

the mechanisms must be *released simultaneously* with one motion unless there is a specific exception.

Surface Vertical Rod exit device



Here we see a door that features both a conventional deadlatch and also a deadbolt

Codes do not *prohibit* more than one locking or latching device installed on a door

- however -

the mechanisms must be *released simultaneously* with one motion unless there is a specific exception.



This is a hotel in Japan



Yeah, you've surely seen these... because there are a number of exceptions to the rules. We'll talk about those.

Examples of devices that, when used *with* a latch, can be arranged to require not more than one additional releasing operation include:

- night latches
- security chains
- dead bolts

(exceptions in certain low occupancy, typically residential, spaces)



Yeah, you've surely seen these... because there are a number of exceptions to the rules. We'll talk about those.

Examples of devices that, when used *with* a latch, can be arranged to require not more than one additional releasing operation include:

- night latches
- security chains
- dead bolts

(exceptions in certain low occupancy, typically residential, spaces)



Hotels have devices to un-set the door hardware on basically all of their rooms at all times. That's why I use my own additional door strap.

# ALWAYS PROHIBITED (WHEN A STRUCTURE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)



Padlocks with hasps

Chains

Bars

(Prohibited on exit doors. You can lock closets or unoccupied spaces, naturally)



Egress paths can't narrow, can't pass through other spaces that may be locked, no dead ends, can't exit through kitchens or storage spaces, exits terminate out to a public right of way or a protected space

Door widths must be 32" minimum (that's NOT a 32" door) projections of up to 4" are allowed if they're between 34" and 48" from the floor ("area of encroachment")



In "Hackers" when Kate Libby tricks Dade Murphy to go up to the roof... roofs are often locked from the inside but must always allow re-entry from the outside

Roof doors must prevent entrapment on the roof



**Delayed Egress** 

(fun note: manual re-arm necessary)

# BUILDINGS CAN'T TRAP PEOPLE ANYWHERE

"NONE OF THE SPECIAL LOCKING ARRANGEMENTS ARE INTENDED TO ALLOW CREDENTIALED EGRESS, REQUEST TO EXIT, OR SIMILAR PROVISIONS WHERE AN OCCUPANT CANNOT LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT SWIPING A CARD THROUGH A READER. WHERE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS DESIRED TO KEEP TRACK OF OCCUPANTS, THE SWIPING OF CARDS NEEDS TO BE PROCEDURAL BUT NOT NECESSARY FOR RELEASING THE DOOR LOCK OR LATCH. FREE EGRESS NEEDS TO BE AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES."

"ANOTHER OPTION TO FREE EGRESS IS THE USE OF A DELAYED-EGRESS ELECTRICAL LOCKING SYSTEM."

"Physical violence mitigations shall not compromise compliance with NFPA code."

# BUILDINGS CAN'T TRAP PEOPLE ANYWHERE

"NONE OF THE SPECIAL LOCKING ARRANGEMENTS ARE INTENDED TO ALLOW CREDENTIALED EGRESS, REQUEST TO EXIT, OR SIMILAR PROVISIONS WHERE AN OCCUPANT CANNOT LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT SWIPING A CARD THROUGH A READER. WHERE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS DESIRED TO KEEP TRACK OF OCCUPANTS, THE SWIPING OF CARDS NEEDS TO BE PROCEDURAL BUT NOT NECESSARY FOR RELEASING THE DOOR LOCK OR LATCH. FREE EGRESS NEEDS TO BE AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES."

"ANOTHER OPTION TO FREE EGRESS IS THE USE OF A DELAYED-EGRESS ELECTRICAL LOCKING SYSTEM."

"Physical violence mitigations shall not compromise compliance with NFPA code."

# BUILDINGS CAN'T TRAP PEOPLE ANYWHERE

"NONE OF THE SPECIAL LOCKING ARRANGEMENTS ARE INTENDED TO ALLOW CREDENTIALED EGRESS, REQUEST TO EXIT, OR SIMILAR PROVISIONS WHERE AN OCCUPANT CANNOT LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT SWIPING A CARD THROUGH A READER. WHERE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS DESIRED TO KEEP TRACK OF OCCUPANTS, THE SWIPING OF CARDS NEEDS TO BE PROCEDURAL BUT NOT NECESSARY FOR RELEASING THE DOOR LOCK OR LATCH. FREE EGRESS NEEDS TO BE AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES."

"ANOTHER OPTION TO FREE EGRESS IS THE USE OF A DELAYED-EGRESS ELECTRICAL LOCKING SYSTEM."

"Physical violence mitigations shall not compromise compliance with NFPA code."





Chapter 3 of the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) sets the requirements of how to identify a buildings occupancy characteristics based on how a space or spaces are used within a building.

There are 10 types of occupancies, broadly speaking. Some of them have fire code exceptions and accessibility exceptions.



#### General rule: over 50 people.

A group A assembly occupancy is a use where people gather for the purpose of civic, social, religious function, recreation, food/drink consumption, or waiting for transportation.

Group A occupancies are broken down into 5 groups.

Group A-1:

A space used for assembly, usually with fixed seating which is intended for production and viewing of performing arts or a motion pictures.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Motion picture theaters Symphony and Concert halls Television and Radio studios that admit an audience Theaters Group A-2:

A space used for assembly that is intended for food and/or drink consumption.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Banquet Halls The gaming areas of Casinos Nightclubs Restaurants, Cafeterias and Similar Dining Facilities Taverns and Bars

Group A-3:

A spaced used for assembly that is intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses that are not classified within any other Group A type.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Amusement Arcades Art Galleries Bowling Alleys **Community Halls** Courtrooms Dance Hall that do not include any food or drink consumption Exhibition Halls **Funeral Parlors** Gymnasiums without spectator seating Indoor swimming pools without spectator seating Indoor tennis courts without spectator seating Lecture Halls Libraries Museums Place of religious worship Pool and billiard parlors Waiting areas in transportation terminals

Group A-4:

A space used for assembly that is intended for viewing indoor sporting events

and activities with spectator seating.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Arenas Skating rinks Swimming Pools Tennis Courts

Group A-5:

A space used for assembly that is intended for participation in or viewing outdoor activities.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Amusement park structures Bleachers Grandstands Stadiums

Exceptions to Group A Occupancies

There are times where an assembly space is not classified as a Group A occupancy. The code lists outs the following conditions: Small Buildings or Tenant Spaces

When a space within a building, or the building itself, is used for assembly purposes where the occupant load is less than 50 persons, then the classification of this space or building is considered a Group B occupancy.

Technically by definition these spaces or buildings are considered assembly spaces, however due to their low occupant load, they have a lower risk associated to them than a typical assembly space. Small Assembly Spaces

There are two types of "small spaces" where the code will consider an assembly space a different type of occupancy.

When a room or space is designed for an occupant load of less than 50 persons and is accessory to another occupancy, it can be classified as a Group B occupancy or as part of that occupancy.

When a room or space is less than 750 square feet in area and accessory to another occupancy, then it can be classified as a Group B occupancy or as part of that occupancy.

Associated with a Group E Occupancy

When a room or space is used for assembly purposes and associated with a Group E occupancy, it is not considered a separate occupancy.

Accessory to Places of Worship

Accessory religious educational rooms and auditoriums that have an occupant load less than 100 persons per room or space are not considered separate occupancies.

**Special Amusement Areas** 

Special amusement areas are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 411.



Unless a you're MAKING widgets or STOCKING widgets on shelves, Group B is most commercial properties that we encounter day-to-day

A building that functions as an office or a professional or a service type transaction.

Examples of a Group B occupancy include but are not limited to the following examples:

Airport traffic control towers Ambulatory care facilities Animal hospitals, kennels and pounds Bank Barber and beauty shops Car wash Civic administration Clinic, outpatient Dry cleaning and laundries Educational occupancies for students above the 12th grade Electronic data processing

Food processing establishments and commercial kitchens that are not associated with restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities not more than 2,500 square feet in area.

Laboratories used for testing and research

Motor vehicle showrooms

Pose offices

Print shops

Professional services such as architects, attorneys, dentists, physicians, engineers, etc...

Radio and Television stations

Telephone exchanges

Training and Skill Development not in a school or academic program and where not classified as a Group A occupancy.

Airport Traffic Control Towers

Airport traffic control towers are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 412.2.

Ambulatory Care Facilities

Ambulatory care facilities are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 422.

Higher Education Laboratories

Higher educational laboratories are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 428.



#### K-12 but not University, at least 5 children.

A Group E occupancy is a use of a building where six or more persons at any one time occupy a space for educational purposes through the 12th grade.

Day Care Facilities are also classified under Group E. This includes spaces that are occupied by more than five children that are older than 2-1/2 years of age who receive educational, supervision or personal care services for less than 24 hours per day.

The code does make 3 clarifications regarding Day Care Facilities as to when they are not classified as a Group E occupancy.

Spaces used within a place of religious worship that provide such day care services during the religious function shall be classified as part of the primary occupancy.

Facilities that have 5 of less children that receive such day care services shall be classified as part of the primary occupancy.

A day care service within a dwelling unit that has 5 or less children shall be classified as a Group R-3 occupancy.

Storm shelters within Group E occupancies are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 423.5.



A group F occupancy is a use of a building that involves **assembling**, **disassembling**, **fabricating**, **finishing**, **manufacturing**, **packaging**, **repair**, **and processing** operations that would not be otherwise classified as a Group H or Group S occupancy.

Group F-1:

A space used for factory industrial uses not classified as occupancy group F-2. Group F-1 is also known as a moderate-hazard factory use.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Aircraft manufacturing, not to include repair Appliances Athletic equipment Automobiles and other motor vehicles Bakeries Beverages: over 16% alcohol content Bicycles Boats

Brooms or brushes

Business machines

Cameras and photo equipment

Canvas or similar fabric

Carpets and rugs (includes cleaning)

Clothing

Construction and agricultural machinery

Disinfectants

Dry cleaning and dyeing

Electric generation plants

Electronics

Energy storage systems (ESS) in dedicated use buildings

Engines (including rebuilding)

Food processing establishments and commercial kitchens not associated with restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities more than 2,500 square feet in area.

Furniture

Hemp products

Jute products

Laundries

Leather products

Machinery

Metals

Millwork (sash and door)

Motion pictures and television filming (without spectators)

Musical instruments

Optical goods

Paper mills or products

Photographic film

**Plastic products** 

Printing or publishing

Recreational vehicles

**Refuse incineration** 

Shoes

Soaps and detergents

Textiles

Tobacco

Trailers

Upholstering

Water/sewer treatment facilities

Wood; distillation

Woodworking (cabinet)

Group F-2:

A space used for the fabrication or manufacturing of noncombustible materials where during the finishing or packing process does not involve a significant fire hazard. Group F-2 is also known as a low-hazard factory use.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Beverages: 16% alcohol content or less Brick and masonry Ceramic products Foundries Glass products Gypsum Ice Metal Products, both fabrication and assembly

Aircraft Manufacturing Facilities

Aircraft manufacturing facilities are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 412.6.

# GROUP H - "HIGH HAZARD"



manufacturing, processing, generation, or storage of **materials that can** constitute a physical or health hazard.

Group H occupancies are classified into 5 high hazard areas that identify the type of hazard for each group...

Group H-1:

A space, building, or structure that contains materials that would pose a detonation hazard.

Group H-2: A space, building, or structure that contains materials that would pose a deflagration hazard or a hazard from accelerated burning.

Group H-3:

A space, building, or structure that contains materials that readily support combustion or that pose a physical hazard.

Group H-4:

A space, building, or structure that contains materials that are health hazards.

Group H-5:

Semiconductor fabrication facilities and comparable research and development areas which use hazardous production materials (HPM) and where the aggregate quantity of materials used is in excess of those materials listed in Tables 307.1(1) and 307.1(2).

# GROUP I - "INSTITUTIONAL"



# Hospitals, Senior Care, Detox/Rehab, Group Homes, Halfway Houses, Jails/Prisons... people are SLEEPING here, that's key

A group I occupancy is a use in which care or supervision is provided to people who are or are not capable of self-preservation without physical assistance or in which people are detained for penal or correctional purposes or in which the liberty of the occupants is restricted.

Group I-1:

A space, building, or structure used by more than 16 people, not including staff, who reside on a 24-hour basis within a supervised environment and receive custodial care.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Alcohol and drug centers Assisted living facilities Congregate care facilities Group homes Halfway houses Residential board and care facilities Social rehabilitation facilities

In addition, group I-1 occupancies must be identified as either a Condition 1 or Condition 2.

I-1 Condition 1 includes buildings where all people who receive custodial care without any assistance are capable of responding to an emergency situation to evacuate a building.

I-1 Condition 2 includes buildings where any person who receives custodial care requires limited verbal or physical assistance while responding to an emergency situation to evacuate a building.

Also note the code clarifies that a facility that houses no fewer than 6 and no more than 16 people who receive custodial care shall be classified as a Group R-4 occupancy, while a facility with 5 or less people receiving custodial care shall be classified as a Group R-3 occupancy.

Group I-2:

A building or structure used for medical care on a 24 hour basis for more than 5 people who are not capable of self preservation.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Foster care facilities Detoxification facilities Hospitals Nursing homes Psychiatric hospitals

In addition, group I-2 occupancies must be identified as either a Condition 1 or Condition 2.

I-2 Condition 1 includes facilities that provide nursing and medical care but not emergency care, surgery, obstetrics or in-patient stabilization units for psychiatric or detoxification, which includes but is not limited to nursing homes and foster care facilities.
I-2 Condition 2 includes facilities that provide nursing and medical care and can also provide emergency care, surgery, obstetrics or in-patient stabilization units for psychiatric or detoxification, which includes but is not limited to hospitals.

As mentioned above, the same applies here as well. A facility with 5 or less people receiving medical care shall be classified as a Group R-3 occupancy.

Group I-3:

A building or structure used by more than 5 people who are under restraint or security thus are generally incapable of self-preservation due to security measures that are not under the occupants control.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Correctional centers Detention centers Jails Prerelease centers Prisons Reformatories

In addition, group I-3 occupancies must be identified as either a Condition 1, 2, 3, 4 or Condition 5. The level of movement within the space designated as one of these conditions can range from free movement to locked exits, from remote-controlled release exits to restricted movement.

Group I-4:

A building or structure that is occupied by more than 5 people of any age who receive custodial care for fewer than 24 hours per day by people other than parents or guardians, relative by blood, marriage or adoption, and in a place other than the home of the person being cared for.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Adult day care Child day care

The code does note however that child day care facilities providing care for more than 5 but not more than 100 children, 2-1/2 years of age or less, shall be

classified as Group E where the rooms in which the children are cared for are located on a level of exit discharge serving such rooms and each child care room has an exit door directly to the exterior.

Also it is important to note the following: Rooms or spaces providing such care within places of religious worship during the religious function shall be classified as part of the primary occupancy, a facility with 5 or less people receiving custodial care shall be classified as part of the primary occupancy, and a facility location within a dwelling unit having 5 or less people receiving custodial care shall be classified as a Group R-3 occupancy.



Again, we think of widgets... A Group M occupancy is a use that involves the display and sale of merchandise, stocking of goods, and is accessible to the public.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

- Department stores
- Drug stores
- Markets
- Motor fuel-dispensing facilities
- Retail or wholesale stores
- Sales rooms

When certain hazardous materials are stored or displayed in a single control area of a Group M occupancy, they shall not exceed the quantity limits of Table 414.2.5(1) or otherwise it can be classified as a Group H occupancy.

Motor Fuel-Dispensing Facilities

Motor fuel-dispensing facilities are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 406.7.



# If people sleep there and it's not Group I, it's almost certainly Group R (lower occupancies per unit, typically)

(hence, some care facilities might be designated Group R, typically with 5 or fewer people)

A group R occupancy is a use of a building or structure intended for sleeping purposes when not classified as a Group I or when not regulated by the International Residential Code (IRC).

Group R-1:

The sleeping units in this occupancy group are primarily transient in nature.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Transient boarding houses with more than 10 occupants Transient congregate living facilities with more than 10 occupants Transient Hotels Transient Motels Group R-2:

This occupancy group contains sleeping units or more than 2 dwelling units where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Apartment houses Nontransient boarding houses with more than 16 occupants Nontransient congregate living facilities with more than 16 occupants Convents Dormitories Fraternities and sororities Nontransient hotels Live/work units Monasteries Nontransient motels Vacation timeshare properties

Group R-3:

The occupants in this occupancy group are primarily permanent in nature and are not classified as a Group R-1, R-2, R-4 or I.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Buildings not containing more than 2 dwelling units

Nontransient boarding houses with 16 or fewer occupants

Transient boarding houses with 10 or fewer occupants

Care facilities that provide accommodations for 5 or fewer people receiving care

Nontransient congregate living facilities with 16 or fewer occupants Transient congregate living facilities with 10 or fewer occupants Lodging houses with 5 or fewer guest rooms

The code does note that care facilities with 5 or fewer people receiving care within a single-family dwelling is permitted to comply with the International Residential Code (IRC) provided an automatic sprinkler system is installed.

Also owner occupied lodging houses with 5 or fewer guest rooms and 10 or fewer total occupants are permitted to be constructed with the International

Residential Code (IRC), provided that an automatic sprinkler system is installed.

Group R-4:

A use for more than 5 people but no more than 16, excluding staff, who reside on a 24 hour basis where the occupants are in a supervised residential environment and receive custodial care.

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Alcohol and drug centers Assisted living facilities Congregate care facilities Group homes Halfway houses Residential board and care facilities Social rehabilitation facilities

Except as otherwise stated elsewhere in the code, Group R-4 occupancies must meet the requirements for construction as for Group R-3. In addition R-4 occupancies must be categorizes as Condition 1 or Condition 2.

R-4 Condition 1 includes buildings where all people receiving custodial care, without any assistance, are capable of responding to an emergency situation to completely egress a building.

R-4 Condition 2 includes buildings in which any person who receives custodial care requires limited verbal or physical assistance when responding to an emergency situation to completely egress a building.



Warehouses. at least 100 sq. ft. (smaller than that, it's an accessory part of some other type of occupancy)

"low-hazard storage" or "moderate-hazard storage" (anything more would be Group H "high hazard")

# This includes COMMERCIAL vehicle storage (these are special occupancies with additional requirements) but not RESIDENTIAL vehicle storage

The code does clarify that a space less than 100 square feet used for the purpose of storage and that is accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as part of that occupancy.

Group S-1:

Buildings occupied for storage uses that are not classified as a Group S-2 occupancy. A Group S-1 occupancy is also known as a moderate-hazard storage occupancy.

This includes but is not limited to the storage of the following examples:

Aircraft hangar (storage and repair) Bags: cloth, burlap and paper Bamboos and rattan Baskets Belting: canvas and leather Beverages over 16-percent alcohol content Books and paper in rolls or packs Boots and shoes Buttons, including cloth covered, pearl or bone Cardboard and cardboard boxes
Clothing, woolen wearing apparel
Cordage
Dry boat storage (indoor)
Furniture
Furs
Grues, muchage, pastes and size
Horns and combs, other than celluloid
l eather
Linoleum
Lumber
Motor vehicle repair garages complying with the maximum allowable
quantities of hazardous materials
Photo engravings
Resilient flooring
Self-service storage facility (mini-storage)
Silks
Soaps
Sugar
Tires, bulk storage of
Iobacco, cigars, cigarettes and snuff
Upholstery and mattresses
wax canules

Group S-2:

Buildings used for the storage or noncombustible materials such as products on wood pallets or in paper cartons, or in paper wrappings. A Group S-2 occupancy

is also known as a low-hazard storage occupancy.

This includes but is not limited to the storage of the following examples:

Asbestos Beverages up to and including 16-percent alcohol Cement in bags Chalk and crayons Dairy products in nonwaxed coated paper containers Dry cell batteries **Electrical coils** Electrical motors Empty cans Food products Foods in noncombustible containers Fresh fruits and vegetables in nonplastic trays or containers Frozen foods Glass Glass bottles, empty or filled with noncombustible liquids Gypsum board Inert pigments lvory Meats Metal cabinets Metal desks with plastic tops and trim Metal parts Metals Mirrors Oil-filled and other types of distribution transformers Public parking garages, open or enclosed Porcelain and pottery Stoves Talc and soapstones Washers and dryers

Aircraft Hangers

Aircraft hangers are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 412.3.

Motor Vehicle Repair Garages

Motor vehicle repair garages are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 406.8.

**Public Parking Garages** 

Public parking garages are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 406.4, 406.5, or 406.6.



# accessory or miscellaneous use not classified as any other specific occupancy

This includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Agricultural buildings Aircraft hangers accessory to a one or two family residence Barns Carports Grain silos accessory to a residential occupancy Greenhouses Livestock shelters Private garages Sheds Stables Tanks Towers

**Private Garages and Carports** 

Private garage and carports are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 406.3.

#### **Residential Aircraft Hangers**

Residential aircraft hangers that are accessory to one or two family dwellings are considered special occupancies and are required to comply with Section 412.4.



Because of the exceptions and exemptions

### INACTIVE LEAF ON DOUBLE DOORS... CAN IT BE FLUSH BOLTED?



Not for residential sleeping units

Allowed in Group B, F, or S under 50 people

"If the active leaf of the pair accommodates the occupant load of the area served by the doors"

No "dummy" hardware on the inactive leaf that would indicate that the door could be used for egress



Occupant load 10 or less under I-Codes or occupant load 3 or less under NFPA

Night latch or deadbolt is OK if operable from the inside with no more than one additional releasing motion

As long as the releasing motions **don't** have to be performed simultaneously



All sorts of rules and changes. Classroom size, sprinklers, etc. all affect the rules.

Door must be able to be unlocked and opened from the outside without key or credential

(This is in tension with the new school security guidelines and all evolving)

No "second releasing operation" on classroom doors.



Under IBC I-Codes delayed egress used to not be permitted in...

Group A – Assembly

Group H – High Hazard

Group E – Educational

Under NFPA delayed egress *might* be sometimes... Group A – not allowed on main entrance/exit Group E – allowed some occupancies in Group I – exterior doors only

press and hold for 3 seconds (15 lbs pressure) and typical delay is 15 seconds (30 can be allowed, with AHJ approval) There will always be an audible alarm and signage within 12" of the exit hardware. If there's a power failure or a sprinkler system activates, immediate free egress is allowed without delay.

As we saw in the story at the start, "Controlled Egress" may be used in certain "Institutional" occupancies where greater security may be needed. (Assisted Living / Senior Care, Correctional like Halfway Houses and Group Homes, Rehab, Psych Hospitals, and Hospital/Obstetric Areas where a Child Abduction System is used)... Delayed egress upon long press of the touchbar does NOT have to be allowed. However, in most instances Fire Alarm or Sprinkler Activation or Power Failure typically will unlock the door. (Otherwise, all staff must carry keys or codes to unlock the doors and procedures must be part of the emergency plan) There is no signage required on these doors because there are no user instructions.

Fun final note: typically, one's egress path out of a building should never involve going through more than one delayed or controlled egress door. (edge cases where it can be two for certain Institutional delayed exits, but 15 seconds each max for a total of 30 seconds)



Examples...



Group B?



Folk may incorrectly guess Group E (that's only K-12)

For some classrooms, Group B seems likely... but some auditorium spaces are surely Group A and dorms are Group R



Most likely Group F (likely in my mind) but Group B could be possible perhaps for adjoining offices. And Group S perhaps for warehousing, etc, before shipment.



Group B seems likely (like "telephone exchange")



Very possibly Group S "storage" but are they considered part of the larger Group I "institutional" hospital itself?



Probably Group U... but are you breaking into substations or some management office?











You can't dictate rules and you can't issue fines. This section was to help you sound smart and predict the door hardware and controls you're likely to encounter.

What should you do if you encounter something that looks really bad? Document it and write it up in your assessment report using neutral and noncommittal language. (Let passive voice and phrases like "may not be in compliance" do a lot of heavy lifting)

Naturally if anything is an immediate risk of life or safety, reach out to your engagement point of contact right away, much as you would if you saw something like an unlocked firearm on someone's desk



I have contacted local AHJs when some places have been egregiously, repeatedly bad

### PART 3 – FIRE-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION





(Classifications of Fire Resistance)



This is found in many modern homes. The **walls and roofs are made of combustible materials–most commonly wood**. If the walls are wood-framed, the roof usually is as well. Rooftops are ceramic tile or asphalt shingles placed over lightweight trusses and OSB.

Both UL and NIST studies have found that lightweight construction will fail within minutes of direct fire impingement.



Construction found in older buildings and utilizes **large dimensional lumber for structural members and interior elements**.

These buildings hold up well under fire conditions (as long as they are wellmaintained and don't have extensive weathering)

New GluLam techniques... I don't know how they will hold up or if studies have been done yet testing them



can be of either new or old construction, and they have **non-combustible walls and a wood roof**.

Older construction buildings may consist of unreinforced masonry and have a conventionally framed roof

Newer buildings will have lightweight roof systems supported by reinforced masonry or tilt slab.

The most common types of roof systems in a commercial setting of Type 3 construction include parallel cord truss and panelized roof systems.



typically found in new buildings and remodels of commercial structures. The **walls and roofs are constructed of non-combustible materials**. Specifically, walls are usually reinforced masonry or tilt slab, while roofs have metal structural members and decking. The top of these roofs are often covered with lightweight concrete, foam, an insulated membrane or a combination of these materials.



constructed of **concrete and protected steel** (steel coated with a fire-resistant material, most often a concrete mixture), and are designed to hold fire for an extended amount of time in order to keep the fire at bay in the room and/or floor of origin.

They're the stoutest of all construction types when exposed to fire.

All buildings that are "high-rises" are fire-resistive by code (usually defined as buildings more than 75 feet tall, with some agencies making amendments for buildings that are 35—55 feet tall)

Once you get above 7 or 8 floors





Is this a fire door assembly? In all likelihood, no.

It's an emergency exit, but I'd bet it's not a fire door


These doors have panic egress hardware but I can tell you specifically they're not fire doors (or if they are, they aren't code compliant)

But the main thing is that you don't need a "fire door assembly" here... it's an external door



Now THIS is very possibly a fire door (although there's one thing I'd want to check to ensure it's in compliance... it looks likely. (LBR Fire Pin) Don't know about that wide gap between the door leafs, though.

## "FIRE EXITS" VS "FIRE DOORS"



HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET

Mitch, so great...

... so, yeah, I'm not talking about fire "exits" per se here. This is about labeled fire door assemblies.

## "LABELED" FIRE DOOR ASSEMBLIES





Labeled Doors are typically all **INTERIOR** doors. Labels can be riveted metal or mylar stickers.

Listing and Labeling Agencies...

- UL (Underwriter's Lab, Illinois)
- WH (Intertek / Warnok Hersey, originally Montreal, now London)
- FMG (Factory Mutual Global, Rhode Island)
- QAI (less well-known player, started as "Quantum Algorithms Institute" in BC)

If a label is missing (or painted over to the point of being illegible) may have to recertify (very expensive) \$50 per label and \$850 per job.



There are **FOUR** dangers we think about from building fires...

dangers from fire: flame, heat, smoke, toxic gasses

Very few people in fires are harmed by the flame itself. Smoke and toxic gas are the main killers



Ask audience about being young, poor hackers wiring up buildings for ethernet back in the 90s and 00s... **plenum** cable vs **riser** cable vs **general multipurpose** CAT5 or CAT6 cable through drop ceilings or in ducts



Along with fire-rated walls, automatic dampers, etc... these are meant to make a fire event more survivable by keeping flame, heat, and smoke contained.

Fire protection features are designed to **slow** the spread of flame, smoke, and gasses with **predictable performance** under **rated load** 



Along with fire-rated walls, automatic dampers, etc... these are meant to make a fire event more survivable by keeping flame, heat, and smoke contained.

Fire protection features are designed to **slow** the spread of flame, smoke, and gasses with **predictable performance** under **rated load** 



Along with fire-rated walls, automatic dampers, etc... these are meant to make a fire event more survivable by keeping flame, heat, and smoke contained.

Fire protection features are designed to **slow** the spread of flame, smoke, and gasses with **predictable performance** under **rated load** 



Along with fire-rated walls, automatic dampers, etc... these are meant to make a fire event more survivable by keeping flame, heat, and smoke contained.

Fire protection features are designed to **slow** the spread of flame, smoke, and gasses with **predictable performance** under **rated load** 



Along with fire-rated walls, automatic dampers, etc... these are meant to make a fire event more survivable by keeping flame, heat, and smoke contained.

Fire protection features are designed to **slow** the spread of flame, smoke, and gasses with **predictable performance** under **rated load** 



Along with fire-rated walls, automatic dampers, etc... these are meant to make a fire event more survivable by keeping flame, heat, and smoke contained.

Fire protection features are designed to **slow** the spread of flame, smoke, and gasses with **predictable performance** under **rated load** 



Along with fire-rated walls, automatic dampers, etc... these are meant to make a fire event more survivable by keeping flame, heat, and smoke contained.

Fire protection features are designed to **slow** the spread of flame, smoke, and gasses with **predictable performance** under **rated load** 

NFPA 80 Fire Doors are always self-closing and self-latching. Latch, not a deadbolt. They have to seal the area but also allow easy and free egress. And they have to withstand a lot of heavy duty shit.

I learned about this incident from Lori Greene at Allegion whom I'll mention in greater detail later... she's an absolute expert in this field and her blog is a fantastic resource if you want to know more about code compliance, door standards, and more.

## NFPA 80 Fire Door Testing





Costs like \$20,000 to submit for a fire test

Quickly heat to 1000 degrees, then ramp to 1925 degrees

Tests to see if there's bowing, latch failure, gaps that develop

Furnace test, this is a 90 minute test



Two types of doors... one has a smoke seal and fire rated glass, the other doesn't. We can see the results.

One may be a sodium silicate filled glass, the other might be a laminate or ceramic glass (although maybe not likely in either case because of the visible wire framing in the glass... Georgian glass style)



Hose stream test

30 psi for most tests. 45psi for 3-hour test



Doors have to not only withstand heat and flame but also the shock of an immediate cold soak and blast from a hose. Fire might not be totally out and you can't have the doors failing or bursting open (implications for drafts and sudden spread of fire, etc)

30 psi for most tests. 45psi for 3-hour test



In the USA, NFPA requires annual inspections of fire-resistance rated door assemblies

Most jurisdictions in the US will be adopting the IBC (International Building Code) model code, which references the NFPA 80 2007 edition requirement, as their local codes



This has to be regularly performed.

Beginning with the 2013 edition, the NFPA 80 standard has required fire doors to be inspected **after installation** and **after maintenance work**, in addition to the annual inspection that has been required since the 2007 edition.

There are 13 items (few doors feature **all** of these items together)



These systems get tested. That's a good reason to have an excuse to look around buildings, be in "non public" areas, etc. People don't want to mess with you, typically, or will leave you alone if you offer them a convincing excuse.



We check the label which has all the relevant information about the door and frame assembly. What it's rated for, who tested it, and standards for assembly.

Latch throw, clearances, etc are all things that matter



We check the label which has all the relevant information about the door and frame assembly. What it's rated for, who tested it, and standards for assembly.

Latch throw, clearances, etc are all things that matter



Would this count? I'd say it's still legible.



Now, the door itself has other problems that we'll talk about shortly, lol

(not self-closing or self-latching)



## Prevent path of flame or smoke or hot/toxic gasses

You might say, "wait a minute, a lot of doors in hotel rooms and meeting rooms have a peephole drilled into them!"...



Peepholes can be fire rated (they'll have a label) inspect in item #4

(they'll use true glass, not plastic, for the optical element... if you can't get one unscrewed, some folk consider it feasible to tap on the glass as a means of checking)



Unless it's outright damage, most holes or breaks are going to be found in the door frame and it's typically

because fastener holes are left in a door or frame due to changes or removal of hardware or plant-ons

Item 2 – No Holes or Breaks
The only holes allowed are the ones that the manufacturer originally included and which were present during testing
• This is to prevent a path for flame, smoke, or toxic gasses
• PEEPHOLES CAN BE FIRE RATED (THEY'LL HAVE A LABEL) CHECK IN ITEM #4
NFPA 80 LISTS METHODS FOR MITIGATION OF HOLES/BREAKS
1. INSTALL STEEL FASTENERS THAT COMPLETELY FILL THE HOLES
2. FILL THE SCREW OR BOLT HOLES WITH THE SAME MATERIAL AS THE DOOR OR FRAME
3. FILL HOLES WITH MATERIAL LISTED FOR THIS USE AND INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUFACTURER'S PROCEDURES
HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET

Prevent path of flame or smoke or hot/toxic gasses

Peepholes can be fire rated (they'll have a label) inspect in item #4

NFPA 80 lists methods of mitigation...

When fastener holes are left in a door or frame due to changes or

removal of hardware or plant-ons, the holes shall be repaired by the following methods:

(1) Install steel fasteners that completely fill the holes.

(2) Fill the screw or bolt holes with the same material as the door or frame.

(3) Fill holes with material listed for this use and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's procedures.



NOTE: Windows are also referred to as "lights" or "sidelights" or "vision lights" in doors but they're just clear windows, not sources of illumination



NOTE: Windows are also referred to as "lights" or "sidelights" or "vision lights" in doors but they're just clear windows, not sources of illumination

Fire Safety Glass Standards...

- old polished-wire glass did surprising well in its day
- tempered glass should handle up to 500°F
- fire rated glass is good up to 1600°F
- ceramic glass (introduced around 2000) is the best at 1600°F but also

- passes fire and smoke performance tests (from 45 min up to 3 hour)

- after heating test, it gets hit with hose stream test at 30psi



"Appurtenances" is a fun word to say, simply meaning "accessories"

What's the code violation here, BTW? Two night locks for some odd reason.

("Operable Part" of a Mechanism... used to Activate, Deactivate, Insert, Withdraw, or Adjust)

Must be operable with one hand in a single operation, with exceptions "to require not more than one additional releasing operation ")

late August, 2022

The Grand Hotel

201 Liberty St

SE Salem, OR

97301



Drywall should extend a half inch beneath the frame... harder to test for this but it's part of the standard

And if the door has electrified hardware, said door should be labeled for that. (Field modifications like raceways are a problem)



Someone jammed a broom handle or some damn thing up into this door and bent the corners.


See that light leaking through?



The drop-down seal on this articulating door bottom isn't working properly



Too much torque on power driver when installing



Snapped the head off this fastener. Time to dig that out of there then order a new one.



Easy things for you to call out, to distract in a conversation, etc

"Completion Sheet" is a good term to know



This little tool is cool... a door gap checker



This little tool is cool... a door gap checker

Great excuse to get up close and personal with many doors in a facility, even ask folk to open and close them repeatedly, etc



Hospital stops are a feature of the frame made at the factory, they are not a permitted field modification

Crown Fire Door Products and NGP are good for fixing top and bottom gaps







Fire doors must be self-closing and self-latching

Externally-mounted Door Closers are the most common



There are concealed door closers, as well



There are concealed door closers, as well



Proper Door Closer devices have an internal oil reservoir to provide damping. Spring hinges have no damping and often slam.

On a labeled door, if it's over 7', code says it shall NOT have spring hinges. Risk of injury. (Court case at Admiral's Club in Florida airport)

NFPA 80 Annex A - "spring hinges should be adjusted to achieve positive latching when allowed to close freely from an open position of 30 degrees."



it's ok to adjust a door closer, that's an allowed repair

don't have to replace covers on door closers if they are removed



**"Wind Stack"** is a good term to use regarding complications related to environmental pressures

There are specific rules and fire doors must almost always be **outswing** except in a few cases



Proper Door Closer devices have an internal oil reservoir to provide damping. Spring hinges have no damping and often slam.

On a labeled door, if it's over 7', code says it shall NOT have spring hinges. Risk of injury. (Court case at Admiral's Club in Florida airport)

NFPA 80 Annex A - "spring hinges should be adjusted to achieve positive latching when allowed to close freely from an open position of 30 degrees."

NFPA 80 5.2.3.5.2 (2013) - "door completely closes when operated from the fullopen position."

International Fire Code (IFC) 703.2.3 (2015) - "Fire doors shall close from the full-open position and latch automatically. The door closer shall exert enough force to close and latch the door from any partially open position."

International Fire Code (IFC) 705.2.4 (2018 and 2021) "Swinging fire doors shall close from the full-open position and latch automatically." (they dropped the "from any partially open position" language)

IFC Commentary: "Fire doors should be frequently checked to make sure they close and latch on their own power from any position." (so even though they dropped the line, the advisory commentary that goes with the IFC code still discusses closing from any position)



Ensures that leaves of doors close in the correct order

This style, "gravity style" is the most reliable...



...but the industry (and clients) love these flush-mount ones

These flush mount ones can be damaged by pushing

## ITEM 8 – DOOR COORDINATOR

- ONLY FOUND ON DOUBLE DOOR SETS
- TEST BY HOLDING THE LEAVES AND LETTING THEM CLOSE IN VARIOUS ORDER
- INACTIVE LEAF SHOULD ALWAYS CLOSE FIRST
- INSTALLATIONS WITH AUTOMATIC FLUSH BOLTS REQUIRE A DOOR COORDINATOR

HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET



Throw distance is always specified on the Door's Label



Throw distance is always specified on the Door's Label

NFPA 80 section 6.4.1.4 - "latching achieved on each door operation"

UL-F (fail safe) electric strikes not allowed on a labeled door. (Fire fighters in a stairwell, flame ingress when power to the building was cut)



Needs bottom hole plugged on the underside of the device and different top rods are used which are spring assisted (these don't secure the door)



Needs bottom hole plugged on the underside of the device and different top rods are used which are spring assisted (these don't secure the door)



Needs bottom hole plugged on the underside of the device and different top rods are used which are spring assisted (these don't secure the door)



Needs bottom hole plugged on the underside of the device and different top rods are used which are spring assisted (these don't secure the door)



Needs bottom hole plugged on the underside of the device and different top rods are used which are spring assisted (these don't secure the door)



Needs bottom hole plugged on the underside of the device and different top rods are used which are spring assisted (these don't secure the door)



Door stoppers and other things like chains, improvised hooks, etc



Door stoppers and other things like chains, improvised hooks, etc

what would the solution be for this kickdown door stop? (Uninstall, yes, but then... fill the holes. Those same steel screws would be fine.)



This is a very nicely-made item (almost looks factory?) but sadly wouldn't be compliant for this installation...



... this is a labeled fire door assembly that controls passage from an elevator landing into the top floor of a museum in Seattle.

Ceco door company (now part of ASSA Abloy) listed by Warnock Hersey BH&S frame (by Babcock-Davis) listed by Underwriter's Lab (a very long time ago... this building is a telephone company central office, this door may be from like the 60s or 70s)

I am sympathetic to these facilities... sometimes having a closed, heavy door is an inconvenience and an accessibility issue. This elevator landing on an upper floor is very small, can get crowded, if folk are in wheelchairs or using other mobility aids, operating the door can be a pain, etc. This was formerly a structure that wasn't open to the public at all but now there's a museum there. They might have even gotten a variance for this during opening hours, who knows.



The real challenge is something like doorstops, though. Employees can buy these anywhere and bring them to the office with almost no oversight, etc. People shove doorstops in places and undermine the fire door functionality, sometimes without the building owners even knowing about it. (Some bad fires in apartment buildings have been exacerbated by homebrew doorstops in corridors, etc)

We've all seen bricks or other things sitting near doors (especially if you do physical penetration testing) and we see all the time how a building's occupants will homebrew their own solutions.



## ITEM 10 – AUXILIARY ITEM INTERFERENCE



If someone does need a hold-open, there are venerable options that exist.

Sentronic SEM 7800 magnetic hold-open is a great example

(LCN has these. they're a sub-division of Allegion after selling to Schlage in 1959. originally named for Lewis C. Norton, the founder who was asked to silence slamming doors in Trinity Church in Boston in 1877/1880, accounts differ on the date)

There are also delayed-action door closers that will temporarily hold doors open and then close and latch properly. Installing products like these in anticipation of people's needs is the best way to mitigate against ad-hoc field solutions by untrained folk which can result in code violations and safety concerns



If someone does need a hold-open, there are venerable options that exist.

Sentronic SEM 7800 magnetic hold-open is a great example

(LCN has these. they're a sub-division of Allegion after selling to Schlage in 1959. originally named for Lewis C. Norton, the founder who was asked to silence slamming doors in Trinity Church in Boston in 1877/1880, accounts differ on the date)

There are also delayed-action door closers that will temporarily hold doors open and then close and latch properly. Installing products like these in anticipation of people's needs is the best way to mitigate against ad-hoc field solutions by untrained folk which can result in code violations and safety concerns


If someone does need a hold-open, there are venerable options that exist.

Sentronic SEM 7800 magnetic hold-open is a great example

(LCN has these. they're a sub-division of Allegion after selling to Schlage in 1959. originally named for Lewis C. Norton, the founder who was asked to silence slamming doors in Trinity Church in Boston in 1877/1880, accounts differ on the date)

There are also delayed-action door closers that will temporarily hold doors open and then close and latch properly. Installing products like these in anticipation of people's needs is the best way to mitigate against ad-hoc field solutions by untrained folk which can result in code violations and safety concerns



What's this guy doing?



He's drilling a raceway through the door in order to run wire through it to what is likely a new electronic handle set

(I strongly doubt that this a fire door)

## ITEM 11 - FIELD MODIFICATIONS



Apartment building in SF... is this extra mortice cutout for an electronic lock set and its battery pack an authorized modification?



I have reached out to Warnock to ask if this was part of the submitted design from Lynden Door



I have reached out to Warnock to ask if this was part of the submitted design from Lynden Door



Their labels weren't legible, I can tell you that, though



Modifications for electronic access control is a very topical question these days

You either have to contact the manufacturer and then file a completion sheet with the original paperwork or you have to order a new door which already comes from the factory with the features that you require



Installing raceway for wiring is a very topical question these days

You either have to contact the manufacturer and then file a completion sheet with the original paperwork or you have to order a new door which already comes from the factory with the features that you require







Signs add fuel to the situation. They can burn or emit toxic gasses



Yeah, sometimes you wind up doing math to determine over or under 5% area of the door. I see LOTS of signage that appears to exceed 5% in hotels



Beginning with the **2013 edition, the NFPA 80 standard** has required fire doors to be inspected after installation and **after maintenance work**, in addition to the annual inspection that has been required since the 2007 edition.



Beginning with the **2013 edition, the NFPA 80 standard** has required fire doors to be inspected after installation and **after maintenance work**, in addition to the annual inspection that has been required since the 2007 edition.

## ACCESSORIES TO SELL YOUR PERSONA





"blue collar guy" or "polo shirt and matching hat guy"





Pawn shops, thrift stores, eBay, etc



Door gap gauge is great... literally a reason to be up close and personal with LOTS of doors

The Door Pressure Gau	GE IS ALSO NEAT	
Conserving to Cold Andrey Cold     Conserving to Cold Andrey Cold Andrey Cold Andrey     Conserving to Cold And	Customer Service New Releases Today's Deals Registry Books Pharmacy Anazon Home Gi agentic Equipmer Hannis Handling Educational Sopplies Scalares and Labrazare. Addition Howdensing Labrazare ansum Gauges i Presure Caropis	The Michael Series Smart Home Sell     Young Filler Series Smart Home Sell     Young Filler Book Dudy
Cick insige to spon expanded view	Gordon Glass Co. Door Pressure Gauge, 0-35 Lbs   Made in USA Trans Gordon Glass Co. Door Pressure Gauge, 0-35 Lbs   Made in USA Trans Co. Door Pressure Gauge, 0-35 Lbs   Made in USA Trans Co. Door Pressure Internation Co. Door Pressure Internation Co. Door Pressure Co. Door Press Co. Door P	Prime Expression fails (Fig. 1997) Strategies (Fig. 1997) The second start sub-registery Strate Second Second Second Second Second Second Second Second Second Second Second Second Second Secon
	Additional Details Sum Small Business This product is from a small business brand. Support small, Learn more Curtomers usually keep this item This product has from interns than average compared to similar products.	Sold by Technological Markane Explored In Anium, Markane on Population Probability Stores propulation makeprogram Starting Control (Starting) Add a gift receipt for easy returns

Door Forge Gauge a.k.a. Door Pressure Gauge

Small, looks specialized, easy to use and understand. Reason to ask for doors to be opened and closed repeatedly or held open. ("You can ignore this alarm, we're testing door operation")



Useful with multi-person teams walking around areas, indoors or out. Can also do this nowadays with smartphone apps or laser measuring tools, however. Depends how much you want to visually stand out.

The X Not In Compliance O Correction COMPLIANCE NIX		
d O		
	<b>O</b>	
	Pick A Photo From Gallery $ ightarrow$	Pick A Photo From Gallery
	Review ->	
	on	Deck A Photo From Callery

For ADA and NFPA inspections







Turn your rental car into a "field service vehicle" (white pickup truck works well)



The absolute best way to sell your cover story is to have a company name tied to your fake work order, etc





Grinnell merged with Simplex and sold to Tyco



Johnson Controls is a HUGE building automation / integration firm. I bet there are companies being serviced by them right now where half the staff doesn't even realize it.

You could show up and say almost anything to a front desk staff about building HVAC sensors, fire alarm troubleshooting, or "wiring on the roof" even and they might simply believe you.

(SimplexGrinnell is a subsidiary of Johnson Controls)



These are names that people know even though they don't know why exactly they know them

Also Johnson Controls owns everybody now. They own SimplexGrinnel, they own Tyco, etc. It's just Johnson Controls under the hood everywhere, heh.







Awesome Lares story about Dominion Power vs. Johnson Controls at a datacenter





Inkjet Printer (cheapest, most limited)

## BADGE PRINTERS – DIRECT-TO-CARD



**Direct-to-Card printer** (compromise on quality, size, and price) ZC350 MSRP a little under \$2000

Dual Sided Printing Can do silver layer with 1bit bitmap


**Retransfer Printer** (best quality, highest price) ZXP series 9 MSRP often over \$7000

Dual Sided Printing with add-on Can do UV with 1bit bitmap layer



## HAVING A BADGE PRINTER IS AWESOME



HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET



We were all set for an Elevator Technician cover, but for one detail... can anyone spot it?

(Outfit is TKE but Badge is Otis)

Likely no one would challenge or notice... but to be safe...



We were all set for an Elevator Technician cover, but for one detail... can anyone spot it?

(Outfit is TKE but Badge is Otis)

Likely no one would challenge or notice... but to be safe...



...we printed up a badge to match the brand of elevator and the rest of the outfit



Some of Deviant's assorted badges in his collection. (Remember: you never make fake government IDs, but private party credentials are generally totally legal if used for legal purposes)

Notice how having them on reels or holders really sort of "sells" them? Well, that only works if you match the kind of badge display methods that most people on site use.

Have a collection of holders...



... we carry assorted colors of lanyards (string style and flat style) which work OK at a distance. Also general "same industry sector" lanyards can help, like conference lanyards. Local sports teams are OK, too, if you see folk doing that.

See the small crab claw pieces of metal? Those are for making our own lanyards in the field... going to a craft store and getting a small segment of ribbon in a specific color or colors, plus a couple stitches, can make those into lanyards on the fly in a pinch.

High-Vis armband style for airport aprons, industrial areas, etc. All kinds of little clips and reels.

Badge "punch" but also plastic holders. Match what the client site uses.





(these are UV elements in the card that will react and glow if inspected, just to make the whole thing look more "official" in some ways)

BADGE PRINTING SOFTWARE FOR RED TEAMERS			
Red Team Readme Designer			
Template JSON	Browse	Background PNG is only for presentation in designer. Background PNG	Browse
<pre>i" { "crdversion":1, "author: {     "name": "RIA",     "conjactingedtaamillance.com" } /origentation": "pertoxis",     "components": [     "components": [     "type: "image",     "author: "bottom",     "type: "image",     "author: "bottom",     "type: "image",     "author: "bottom",     "author: "bottom",     "author: "bottom",     "author: "bottom",     "type: "image",     "author: "bottom",     "author: "bottom",     "author: "bottom",     "author: "bottom",     "type: "image",     "author: "bottom",     "author: "bottom",     "author: "bottom",     "type: "image",     "author: "bottom",     "author: "bottom",     "author: "bottom",     "tope: "tottom",     "tottom",     "tottom: "conter",     "tottom: "conter",     "tottom: "bottom",     "tottom: "bottom: "bottom",     "tottom: "bottom: "bottom:"bottom",     "tottom: "bottom: "bottom:",     "tottom: "bottom: "bottom:"bottom: "bottom:",     "tottom: "bottom: "bottom:"bottom:"bottom:"bottom:"bottom:"bottom: "bottom:"bottom:"bottom:"bottom:"bottom: "bottom:"bottom:"bottom: "bottom:"bottom:"bottom: "bottom:"bo</pre>		Johnson Controls	
			HTTPS://DEVIATING.NET





















## ONE MORE OUTSTANDING RESOURCE





https://idighardware.com/

Credit to Lori for some of the images you saw in this slide deck. I've been an avid reader of and even an occasional contributor to her site for ages.

She says a typical conversation with her will go like this... Lori: "You can't lock that door." (stating the reason why) Owner: "But I want to." Lori: "Well, you can delay it or alarm it, but you can't lock it." ...she literally has this same conversation on a weekly basis.















## JUST REMEMBER...





It's a fun and interesting career and helps keep people safe. Maybe you check out some training or cert classes, who knows? Enjoy!



