

EMERGENCY EVACUATION MEANS OF EGRESS - YOUR PATHWAY TO SAFETY

Means of Egress

A **continuous** and unobstructed way of exit travel from any point in a University building to a public way (always outdoors). A means of egress consists of an exit access and an exit.

The exit access - that portion of a means of egress that leads to an exit. Exit access from a University laboratory, office, classroom, or any other occupied building location includes (a) the occupied space such as a laboratory, classroom, office, (b) the exit doors leading from the occupied space and (c) the corridors and other walkway paths that an individual would have to travel through to reach an exit door. **All exit doors open into either one of the enclosed stairwells or a public space outdoors.**

What can you do to ensure that the exit access remains continuous and unobstructed?

- Do not lock the exit doors leading from your office, laboratory etc. from the inside in a way that requires a key to open them.
- Do not block the doors with equipment or other items that would block egress.
- Do not stack items along the immediate path to your exit doors with items that narrow the pathway or with items that are unstable and could fall into the egress pathway.
- Do not store items in an area that is close to an exit door that leads into a stairwell.
- Do not store or handle chemicals in any egress pathway.

The exit - that portion of a means of egress separated from other building spaces of the building by construction with a specific fire resistance rating to provide a protected way of travel to the exit discharge. Exits include exterior exit doors and stairwells. The University's stairwells are designed to protect individuals from the effects of a fire during evacuation. The stairwells are constructed of materials with a two-hour fire resistance rating. University exit doors (leading into a stairwell or to the outdoors) are identified by an illuminated "EXIT" sign that is either above the exit door or close to it (e.g., ceiling-hung signs with a directional arrow pointing towards the exit door).

What can you do to ensure that the exits remain unobstructed?

- Do not discard or store furniture and other items in the stairwell landings.
- Do not prop open a stairwell door. A propped-open door will compromise the protective function of a stairwell. Whenever you encounter a propped-open stairwell door, close it.
- Whenever you discover stored or discarded items in stairwell landing areas, call Facilities at 7-5580 and request that the items be removed.
- If you notice that an exit door light is out or a ceiling-hung sign has been disturbed so that the directional arrow does not point toward the exit door, report it to Facilities.