



# Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

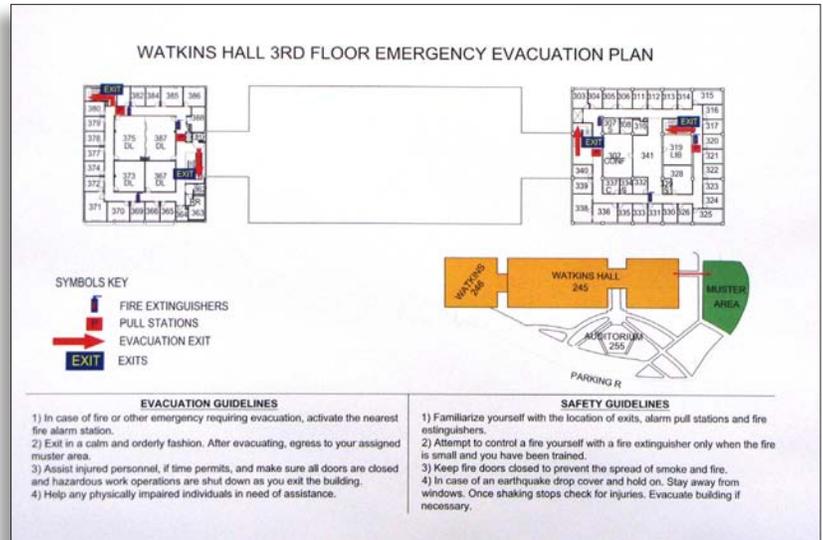
## Means of Egress: Evacuation Route Signs

No. FP-2011-31 August 2, 2011

**Learning Objective:** The student shall be able to describe the development of a simple building evacuation diagram.

In addition to exit signs that guide building occupants to safety, some occupancies are required to post building evacuation diagrams like the one pictured. Hotels, motels, apartments, hospitals, nursing homes, highrise office buildings, and a variety of other occupancies may have requirements for—or chose to install—building evacuation diagrams.

There is no fire or building code standard that establishes criteria for building evacuation diagrams, what they must contain, where they are located, what language(s) they must use, or any other element of the many that go into creating a plan. Code officials are advised to develop their own policies that address these requirements.



This evacuation diagram sign provides emergency and safety advice, as well as escape routes, for building occupants.

The signs should be large enough to be legible. While colored graphics are not essential, color-coding items can provide easier interpretation. As a foundation, consider the following elements:

- Show the basic layout of the property (by floor level) including walls and doors. Show the outside of the property if there is a planned gathering area. Keep the illustration simple.
- Identify the starting point. This will vary according to where the sign is posted, but should be clearly identified with the words "You are here."
- Include a compass. Provide a simple compass in one corner of the plan, indicating north with the letter "N."
- Mark the means of egress. Mark the egress paths that are available from the starting point. Highlight exterior or stair enclosure doors with the word "Exit."
- If there is an outdoor gathering area, identify it on the drawing.
- Show the location of fire extinguishers and fire alarm manual pull stations, if any.
- Consider including other important elements such as first aid kits, eyewash stations, Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) locations, telephone switchboard, or any other element that is significant to the occupancy.
- Consider including Braille representations of any wording.

Signs should be posted at or near means of egress, entrances to stair enclosures, in elevator lobbies and any high foot traffic area where it will be easily recognized.



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