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<i>Subject:</i> Means of Egress	<i>Last Review Date</i>	09/01/09
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Policy

It is the policy of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions to provide a safe means of egress to Johns Hopkins faculty, staff, students, patients and visitors in the event of an emergency. Johns Hopkins recognizes the importance of the Building Officials and Code Administrators' (BOCA) National Fire Prevention Code and the National Fire Prevention Association's (NFPA) 101 "Life Safety Code", and shall comply with all applicable portions of these codes to assure that corridors provide for: 1) a readily safe and adequate means by which occupants may exit in the event of a fire or other emergency; 2) adequate access and use by emergency personnel; 3) the safe movement of people during normal use of the building; and 4) the safe transport of patients and materials.

Definitions

Healthcare Occupancy - an area that is characterized as four or more occupants who are incapable of self-preservation and are required to sleep overnight. In this occupancy, regardless of how many exits are provided, the occupants are not necessarily able to use them on their own.

Ambulatory Healthcare Occupancy - an area that is characterized as four or more occupants who are incapable of self-preservation but are not required to sleep overnight. In this occupancy, regardless of how many exits are provided, the occupants are not necessarily able to use them on their own.

Business Occupancy - an area that is generally consists of laboratories, offices, dormitories, classrooms, and outpatient clinics that do not have four or more patients under sedation.

Healthcare Occupancies

In healthcare occupancies (Inpatient or Ambulatory Health Care areas) the use of ANY corridor for storage of equipment and supplies is prohibited. Mobile equipment in any corridor shall be limited to that which is actively in use, or needed for emergency situations. To be considered actively in use, equipment has to be utilized within 30 minutes. This equipment shall not excessively obstruct the egress, block access to emergency equipment (such as pull stations or fire extinguishers), or obstruct effective operation of building fire protection features, such as smoke and fire doors.

Business Occupancies

In business occupancies, every effort shall be made to keep all storage out of egress paths and egress corridors. The following guidelines should be adhered:

1. Storage in egress corridors shall not obstruct the corridor to less than 48 inches.
2. At no time shall items stored in corridors obstruct emergency showers, utility access panels, exit doors, fire doors, exit signs, fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations or sprinkler systems.
3. No combustible items such as boxes or paper shall be placed outside of cabinetry in the corridor. Open shelving of any type is not permitted.
4. Storage of chemicals is prohibited.
5. Compressed gas cylinders of carbon dioxide, oxygen, argon, nitrogen, etc., must be properly secured.
6. Non-volatile radioactive material should be kept in locked refrigerators or freezers. Any exposure outside of the refrigerator or freezer must be no greater than 0.2 mR/h.
7. Only biological agents listed as Biosafety Level 2 and below should be stored in refrigerators or freezers in the corridors. Biological agents classified at Biosafety Level 2, or agents requiring P2 physical containment, should be stored in a closed, leak-proof container within a refrigerator or freezer.

Business Occupancy Floors Located Within a Healthcare Occupancy

Johns Hopkins Hospital business occupancy floors are floors that contain laboratories and/or offices within the hospital complex. When these floors serve as a horizontal egress for healthcare occupancies, they shall follow the

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corridor utilization guidelines for healthcare occupancies.

Floors that do not serve as healthcare egress must follow these guidelines:

1. Placement of items in corridors shall be within authorized demarcations on the floor surface. At no time shall the egress path be reduced below 48 inches of clear unobstructed width. All items should be aligned on one side of the corridor only.
2. At no time shall items stored in corridors obstruct emergency showers, utility access panels, exit doors, fire doors, exit signs, fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations or sprinkler systems
3. Storage and usage chemicals, cryogenic gases, and compressed gas cylinders are prohibited from corridors.
4. Ice machines and any other plumbed equipment are forbidden in corridors.
5. No combustible items such as boxes or paper shall be placed outside of cabinetry in the corridor. Open shelving of any type is not permitted.

If unclear if a floor serves as a healthcare egress, refer to HSE policy 408: Evacuation Plans in JHH.

Ross Building of the JHU School of Medicine

The north-south and central east-west egress corridors shall remain free and clear for the full constructed width. The end east-west corridors shall follow the business occupancy guidelines. All items stored in the service corridor must follow the business occupancy guidelines and must be placed behind the yellow lines marked on the floor in the corridor.

References

Building Officials and Code Administrators, National Fire Prevention Code 2000

National Fire Prevention Association, Life Safety Code 2001

HSE policy 408: Evacuation Plans in JHH

Responsibilities

Health, Safety and Environment

Ensure compliance with this policy. If a corridor is found not to be in compliance with this policy, the owner of the material(s) will be given 30 days to have it removed. If, after 30 days, the item(s) are not removed, it will be disposed of per Health, Safety, and Environment and the Facilities Department.

Departmental Management

Enforce this policy.

All Staff

Keep mobile equipment out of corridors, unless attended.

Keep all stored items out of corridors on floors designated as healthcare and ambulatory healthcare occupancy.

Review Cycle

Annually