

## REMOVE OBSTRUCTIONS AT EXITS, DOORS, AISLES, CORRIDORS, STAIRWAYS, ETC.

Violation #4

### CODE SECTIONS

*International Fire Code 2012 Edition*

**1030.2 Reliability.** Required *exit accesses, exits* and *exit discharges* shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency when the building area served by the *means of egress* is occupied. An *exit* or *exit passageway* shall not be used for any purpose that interferes with a *means of egress*.

**1030.3 Obstructions.** A *means of egress* shall be free from obstructions that would prevent its use, including the accumulation of snow and ice.

**1030.6 Furnishings and decorations.** *Means of egress* doors shall be maintained in such a manner as to be distinguishable from the adjacent construction and finishes such that the doors are easily recognizable as doors. Furnishings, decorations or other objects shall not be placed so as to obstruct *exits*, access thereto, egress therefrom, or visibility thereof. Hangings and draperies shall not be placed over *exit* doors or otherwise be located to conceal or obstruct an *exit*. Mirrors shall not be placed on *exit* doors. Mirrors shall not be placed in or adjacent to any *exit* in such a manner as to confuse the direction of exit.

**1028.6 Emergency escape and rescue openings.** Required *emergency escape and rescue openings* shall be maintained in accordance with the code in effect at the time of construction, and the following: Required *emergency escape and rescue openings* shall be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys or tools. Bars, grilles, grates or similar devices are allowed to be placed over *emergency escape and rescue openings* provided the minimum net clear opening size complies with the code that was in effect at the time of construction and such devices shall be releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of the *emergency escape and rescue opening*.

**1014.4.1 Aisles in groups B and M.** In Group B and M occupancies, the minimum clear *aisle* width shall be determined by Section 1005.1 for the *occupant load* served, but shall not be less than 36 inches.

**Exception:** Nonpublic aisles serving less than 50 people, and not required to be accessible by Chapter 11 of the *International Building Code*, need not exceed 28 inches (711 mm) in width.

### EXPLANATION

The required width of an exit way is essentially the minimum width of the aisles or corridors leading to the exit with only two exceptions: handrails and doors that may not diminish aisle width by more than seven (7) inches. The exit width must be maintained throughout the exit path to an exit door and out to the public way without any obstructions.

### RATIONALE

When all other fire prevention measures have failed and a fire occurs all occupants must be able to rapidly exit the building to a safe public way. Obstructions such as storage, decorations or other items will reduce the aisle's ability to offer a rapid exit. Immediate compliance to this code section is mandatory—the obstructions shall be cleared prior to the Fire District leaving the premises.