



OREGON FIRE CODE Interpretations and Technical Advisories

A collaborative service by local and state fire professionals, along with our stakeholders and customers, to provide consistent and concise application of Oregon's fire prevention and life safety regulations.

Date: August 9, 2005

Ruling: Interpretation No. 05-06 (Revised #97-17)

Subject: Exit Obstructions Due To Hazardous Conditions

Code Reference: 2004 Oregon Fire Code, Section 1027

Question(s): 1) Does the malfunction of a piece of equipment, causing the release of smoke, toxic materials or flammable gas into an exit passageway/corridor, constitute an exit obstruction?

2) Does the placing of electrical and/or gas-fired equipment (including piping) within an exit passageway/corridor constitute an exit obstruction?

Answer(s): Question #1: Yes. Any penetrations or alterations, other than those permitted (OSSC 1016.1 and OMSC Chapter 6, 7 and Appendix C), which allow the introduction of hazardous substances or vapors constitutes an exit obstruction per OFC 1027.2 and would be subject to correction by the fire code official.

Question #2: Installation of approved appliances and related equipment in accordance with fire and life safety regulations is not considered an exit obstruction. Regulations may be more restrictive in specific occupancies as regulated by the OFC, such as Group H, Division 5 Occupancies.

Other References: 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code, Section 1003.6 and 1016.1.
2004 Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code, Chapter 6, 7 and Appendix C.