



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: December 1, 2025

Ruling: Technical Advisory No. 25-02

Subject: Guidance for certain Group R-2 buildings with a single exit stairway

Code References: 2025 Oregon Fire Code (OFC), Sections 1006.3.4.2 and Appendix D.106.1. 2025 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC), BCD Bulletin "Group R-2 Single Exit Stair Buildings" (see attached). OSSC Appendix Q (see attached). ORS 455.132 (authority).

Authority: Under ORS 476.030, the Oregon State Fire Marshal is responsible for adopting rules related to fire prevention, which are reflected in the Oregon Fire Code. Legal opinion has consistently held that fire department access requirements in OFC Chapter 5 and Appendix D are integral to fire prevention and therefore within this authority.

Guidance: This Technical Advisory provides direction to fire departments in exercising their authority under the OFC to approve or deny projects that propose use of a single-exit stairway under OSSC Appendix Q. The intent is to ensure that approval decisions are based on a clear evaluation of local operational capability, community risk, and long-term service capacity. This document also supports fire departments in reviewing and certifying the applicability of OSSC Appendix Q provisions within their jurisdiction, so that decisions are consistent and transparent.

Stakeholder Input: This Technical Advisory is a collaborative document through involvement with the following partners: Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA), Oregon Fire Marshals Association (OFMA), and with consultation from Oregon Building Codes Division (BCD). Together, these agencies have developed and provided information to assist with guidance and resources when evaluating the use of OSSC Appendix Q.

Background: House Bill 3395 (2023) was enacted as part of Oregon's housing production strategy, directing state agencies to reduce regulatory barriers to small, lower-cost multifamily housing. A key barrier identified was the two-stair requirement for low-rise apartments, which limits design efficiency and site feasibility. Section 8 of HB 3395 specifically directed the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), through the Building Codes Structures Board (BCSB), to review the Oregon Structural Specialty Code and consider allowing single-exit residential occupancies under conditions that maintain safety, public health, and welfare.

While HB 3395 did not enact code changes, it established a clear legislative mandate that prompted the development of Appendix Q in the 2025 OSSC, created collaboratively by DCBS, OSFM, and the BCSB. Concurrent amendments to the Oregon Fire Code (OFC) now align fire code enforcement with OSSC Appendix Q, ensuring local fire officials assess operational capacity before approving any single-exit stairway design option.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge the history of the broader national debate. Several leading fire service and life safety organizations including the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the Metro Chiefs Section of NFPA, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), the National Fire Chiefs Council (UK), and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) formally opposed proposals to expand single-stairway allowances. See Online Resources below.

Oregon's approach through OSSC Appendix Q is intentionally more narrow than those that were opposed at the national level. Oregon provisions are limited to low-rise Group R-2 buildings with tight technical constraints. Adoption within each municipality requires approval from both the building and fire code officials. Once adopted, the local fire official conducts a site-by-site review during the planning phase. This framework seeks to balance Oregon's urgent housing production goals with the fire service's responsibility to safeguard both occupants and responders.

Legislative & Code Authority:

Legislative Origin:

- **HB 3395 (2023), Section 8** — session law directive instructing DCBS/BCSB to study and propose single-exit stairway allowances. *This section is uncoded and does not create new or amend existing ORS chapters.*

Codified Code Authority: (state agency response to the above legislation)

- **OSSC 2025, Appendix Q** — technical requirements and limitations for single-exit stairways in Group R-2 buildings.
- **OFC 2025, Sections 1006.3.4.2 & Appendix D106.1** — fire code authority enabling local fire officials to approve or deny OSSC Appendix Q and related projects.

Local Operational Authority:

- Local fire code officials may approve or deny OSSC Appendix Q and/or specific projects with single-exit stairway designs based on department capabilities, including response time, staffing, apparatus and ladder capability, access constraints, water supply, and simultaneous egress/ingress considerations.
- If adopted, OSSC Appendix Q site-specific approval should include periodic re-evaluation of operational conditions. Revocation procedures if conditions change should be established.

Advice: The following steps are suggested when assessing the need and the application of OSSC Appendix Q and the Oregon Fire Code.

Step 1: Consider how fireground operations may be impacted.

Key operational impacts include:

a. **Ingress/Egress Congestion**

- Firefighters and civilians share a single stairwell, creating immediate conflict between rescue, suppression, and evacuation.

- Fire attack operations may temporarily block or compromise the only exit route.
- b. **Search and Rescue Complexity**
 - Limited access points make primary and secondary searches slower and more labor-intensive.
 - Evacuation of non-ambulatory occupants is more difficult without a secondary stair.
 - c. **Ventilation and Smoke Movement**
 - A single stairwell can act as a vertical chimney, quickly filling with smoke.
 - Positive pressure ventilation (PPV) tactics may require modification to avoid trapping civilians above the fire floor.
 - d. **Fire Attack and Water Supply**
 - Advancing hose lines up the only stairwell can restrict occupant egress.
 - Pumping and staffing requirements may increase to balance rescue and fire attack.
 - e. **Rescue Priorities**
 - Ground ladders and aerial apparatus may become the only alternative egress, requiring more companies on scene. Do the department's ground ladders reach the third and fourth floor? How effective are ladders for rescue? Is there space to spot aerials at anticipated building corners?
 - Rescue group operations may take precedence over interior attack until the stair is controlled.
 - Note that the OSSC Section 1006.3.4 does not allow occupiable roofs in these occupancy types.
 - f. **Command and Control**
 - Incident Command may need to assign separate stairwell control officers to coordinate firefighter ingress and civilian evacuation.
 - Mutual aid and additional alarms may be necessary earlier than in two-exit buildings.

Step 2: Determine fire department capabilities. Does the jurisdiction have the capacity and equipment to allow any apartment building constructed under the conditions of OSSC Appendix Q, in all areas of the jurisdiction, to have a single exit stairway? In making that judgment they should include in their assessment:

- **Response-time and effective response force analysis:** consider travel times to land zoned for residential use or mixed residential and commercial use that may ultimately be subject to OSSC Appendix Q. Consider engine and full first-alarm assignments and evaluate against your department's SOG's or the using "Total Response Time" criteria in NFPA 1710 for career, or NFPA 1720 for volunteer as applicable. While single-exit stairway occupancies are not specifically considered in NFPA 1710 or NFPA 1720, the standards may assist agencies in determining their own first due and full-first alarm assignments to these structures. NFPA 1300 may also be useful for defining, identifying, assessing, and prioritizing overall risks at the community level
 - **Staffing / initial alarm capability:** can the department consistently deliver the size of firefighting force needed (staffed engine, aerial and support) to safely operate given a single-exit building? Primary consideration should be given to permanent staffing. Caution should be applied in crediting grant-funded or levy-funded positions as those positions may not be sustainable. (Use NFPA 1710 and 1720 for guidance)

- **Apparatus and ladder capability:** confirm ground and aerial ladder reach capability and whether aerial placement is feasible at one or more building faces as required by OFC Appendix D (vertical height >30 ft needs aerial access planning). Ground or aerial ladders should be capable of reaching the floor level of one side of the building, or as required by the fire code official. This includes access (e.g., clear pathways to different sides of the structure and ensuring adequate set-back for ground ladder operations and placement (e.g., at least 15 feet for fourth-story window access). Consider ensuring first-due apparatus have sufficient ground ladder length to access highest floor windows. A fire chief should consider the equivalency between a second stairway or a later arriving aerial ladder. Once the apparatus has arrived and ladders are in place, does a nearly fully extended aerial provide the same practical exiting capability as an internal exit stair?
- **Water supply:** confirm hydrant spacing & flows will support either suppression operations or the required sprinkler design. See OFC Appendix B for fire-flow requirements.
- **Access constraints:** one-way vehicular access, narrow private roads, steep grades, overhead utilities, and on-street parking must be evaluated. If access is marginal, require improvements or denying OSSC Appendix Q certification.

Step 3: Fire department certification. HB 3395 intends that a local fire official certify that they approve the use of OSSC Appendix Q after a thorough evaluation using Steps 1 and 2. The means of certification is not prescribed, but some level of formal documentation is advised.

Fire departments must cite OFC Section 1006.3.4.2 when either certifying or denying the adoption of OSSC Appendix Q using the methods enumerated below.

Recommended means of certification in order of preference:

1. Integration with Local Policy or Ordinance

- Some jurisdictions may adopt a local ordinance or administrative rule requiring fire chief certification as part of plan review.
- This provides consistency and removes ambiguity when certifying capacity across multiple projects and provides for site specific application.

2. Written Statement of Certification

- A signed memorandum or letter from the fire chief or fire marshal addressed to the building official. This should enumerate the requirements of the jurisdiction to allow single-exit stairway for Group R-2 dwelling units. Consideration should be given to the jurisdiction's minimum performance requirements. A memorandum or letter should include:
 - a) Response time benchmarks (first unit arrival, effective response force).
 - b) Staffing levels (on-duty strength, callback/mutual aid agreements).

- c) Apparatus inventory and deployment capabilities (engines, aerials, water tenders, specialized rescue). Laddering considerations with length of aerial and ground ladders.
- d) Water supply adequacy (hydrant spacing, flow testing, static supply for rural).
- e) Access considerations (street width, aerial ladder placement, turning radii).

3. Use of a Standardized Checklist or Form

- Fire departments may create a certification form aligned with OSSC Appendix Q, OFC Section 1006.3.4.2 and Appendix D106.1.
- The form can be attached to plan review documents and retained in the project file.

Step 4: Fire department site-by-site determination. When a fire department has certified the adoption of OSSC Appendix Q in cooperation with the local building official, they must also consider access and water supply adequacy for each such project at the time of planning and zoning.

- The department should use Steps 1 and 2 when making their determination.
- The department should cite OFC Appendix D106.1 when determining its operational capabilities and making the decision to allow a single exit stairway apartment building built under OSSC Appendix Q.

Questions and Answers: The following are commonly asked questions.

1. **For single stairway apartments planned for lots created after July 2, 2001, may a fire department make recommendations of alternative construction standards (such as additional sheetrock or separations) to the building official using the “UACS” rules in OSFM JPB-001?**

A: No. The “UACS” rules are specific to 1 and 2 family dwellings, while OSSC Appendix Q is restricted to certain Group R-2 occupancies. OFC sections related to these concerns are for distinctly different uses and should not be confused.

2. **Can a fire department with no aerial apparatus certify the approval of OSSC Appendix Q?**

A: Yes. There is no legislative or statewide requirement specifying the equipment or capabilities a fire department must possess to approve the use of OSSC Appendix Q. However, the absence of an aerial ladder apparatus is a critical factor to consider. Without such equipment, a fire department is unlikely to have sufficient means—either through ground ladders or aerial ladders to perform vertical ventilation or rescue occupants from upper floors if the single exit stairway becomes unusable for any reason. Aerial apparatus, and more so ground ladders, have drawbacks that render them not equivalent to a built-in second set of stairs. These include: not being available until after the fire department arrives and sets them up; the need to be moved from window to window; residents without the high level of physical ability required to mount and descend a tall ladder; unknown weather conditions.

3. **Our fire district has adopted an Appendix Q certification process to meet the intent of HB 3395. Is any other documentation required?**

A: Not necessarily, however Oregon law does require a local building official (not the fire official) to submit a written plan indicating how they will cooperate with the local fire department in terms of plan review during the design phase of a new building. These plans should reflect the fire officials' position on OSSC Appendix Q adoption. Typically, these plans are updated in four-year periods. See ORS 455.150 and OAR 918, Division 20. While the plans are required to be updated every four years, the best practice would be to inform the local building officials of any significant changes in the jurisdiction (e.g., staffing, apparatus, ladders) which change its performance capabilities related to Group R-2 dwelling units with single-exit stairways between the statutorily required updates. If changes result in rescinding OSSC Appendix Q, see #6 below.

4. If a jurisdiction uses a local ordinance or administrative rule to certify the use of OSSC Appendix Q, does the jurisdiction need to follow the process of OAR 837-039-0006 by sending changes to the OSFM for a consistency finding?

A: No. That rule is limited to changes to the Oregon Fire Code. So long as the jurisdiction is not planning to change either OFC Sections 1006.3.4.2 or Appendix D.106.1, they can create a local ordinance without notifying the State Fire Marshal. The local process satisfies the intent of HB 3395.

5. Can a local fire department make *site-by-site* approvals after adopting OSSC Appendix Q?

A: Yes. A fire department should always review their capacity to respond to any new construction project, including assessing access and water supply, as required in ORS 455.150. A multi-story residential building planned with a single stair exit should be a review priority by any fire department.

It is the intent of HB 3395 to allow local fire departments to allow such buildings only when the jurisdiction can safely and effectively respond to them. OSSC Appendix Q simply sets the construction limits by which the fire department can make that determination.

6. Can a fire department adopt a local fire code regulation that requires aerial apparatus access to two or more sides of a proposed single-exit apartment building?

A: Perhaps. But such a proposed change must be submitted to OSFM for a consistency finding in conformance with OAR 837-039-0006 to ensure it is both more stringent and lawful. But also note that in 2025 the Oregon Fire Code, Section D105.3, was amended to allow fire code officials to have more authority on this issue. It now says: *"[t]he side of the building on which the aerial fire apparatus access road is positioned shall provide optimal operational access to the side or corner of the building and be approved by the fire code official"*. This can be broadly interpreted to mean that the FCO can require aerial access to more than one side in rare cases, although that is not the general intent of the code.

7. Once a jurisdiction has certified the use of OSSC Appendix Q, can they later rescind that certification if their operational capacity changes, or for another reason?

A: Yes. OSSC Appendix Q is an optional appendix that becomes enforceable only when locally adopted in partnership between the building official and the fire official. ORS Chapter

455 (the enabling statutes for the OSSC) authorizes the Building Codes Division to adopt codes statewide, but local adoption of appendices is discretionary, not mandatory. Section 8 of HB 3395 (2023) further conditions use of OSSC Appendix Q on certification by the local fire official that sufficient firefighting capacity and equipment exist.

The adopted appendices in the OSSC are not permanent fixtures of the code — they are subject to change or removal with each code cycle. For that reason, if conditions change (e.g., loss of aerial coverage, closure of a station, increased call volume), or if either the building or fire official determines OSSC Appendix Q no longer serves the community's interest, the jurisdiction may formally rescind its adoption. As with initial adoption, rescission should be documented through the same local legislative or administrative process originally used.

To summarize, because local adoption of an appendix is discretionary, rescission is legally permissible. The jurisdiction would need to follow the same process used to adopt the appendix.

8. If a fire department's operational capacity decreases after a single-exit apartment building is approved, can the revocation procedures in #6 above apply retroactively? What opportunity exists for a "retrofit" or some additional protective measure?

A: No, a jurisdiction cannot retroactively require an apartment building owner to add stairs or any other structural feature because its operational conditions have later changed. This is why the initial adoption of the appendix must be made carefully. Moreover, it is important to understand that "revocation" is intended only towards rescinding an already adopted OSSC Appendix Q within the district, and not for site-to-site determinations which are made later at the time of planning.

9. Are non-fire emergencies considerations addressed by OSSC Appendix Q?

A: No. OSSC Appendix Q is written to address egress and building features specific to fire safety; it does not explicitly address other emergency scenarios. However, a single exit stairway presents operational challenges for non-fire incidents, such as simultaneous rescue and occupant evacuation during medical calls, active aggressor events, or seismic emergencies. These risks should be considered by the fire official as part of the local certification process under HB 3395, since the statute expressly ties adoption to local firefighting capacity and operational realities.

10. What can a fire agency who has adopted OSSC Appendix Q do to proactively mitigate egress hazards during non-fire emergencies?

A: To help mitigate such scenarios, the fire code official may require additional preparedness measures under the Oregon Fire Code. For example, (2025) OFC Section 403.9.2.2 allows the fire code official to require approved fire safety and evacuation plans for Group R occupancies, including evacuation instructions for each dwelling unit.

The fire department should also establish pre-incident plans, joint training, or mutual-aid considerations specifically for buildings relying on a single exit.

Moreover, the Oregon Fire Code gives fire officials discretion to require some additional safeguards when evaluating projects under OSSC Appendix Q. Beyond the minimum

provisions of the structural code, OFC Section 506 allows the fire official to require key boxes or key switches to support fire and non-fire emergency response. This could make access somewhat faster. Fire officials could also require additional portable fire extinguishers in areas deemed likely temporary staging or refuge areas.

11. Can fire officials require the OSSC Appendix Q apartment building to have temporary areas of refuge or Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement Systems?

A: No. Structural features such as areas of refuge are under the authority of the building official and cannot be required by the fire code official.

Similarly, Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement Systems (ERCES) under OFC Section 510 apply only to buildings within the scope of that section — typically taller or more complex structures. The low-rise, four-story buildings covered by Appendix Q fall below the height threshold for OFC 510, so ERCES cannot be mandated.

The fire code official may, however, provide advisory recommendations during early planning and design, such as suggesting refuge locations or communication improvements to support safe operations. These recommendations are voluntary and intended to assist the building official and design team in mitigating life-safety risks.

12. Can fire officials restrict Electric Vehicle (EV) charging or parking near the discharge of the single-exit, or impose other restrictions on the storage of e-mobility and similar devices that use lithium-ion batteries?

A: No, these are all structural concerns that are determined by the local building department. While the fire department cannot “restrict” them they can, and should, be involved early in the planning process and make recommendations to the building official. Also note that the Oregon Fire Code has added several battery related fire safety items for indoor concerns in the 2025 edition. See also OSSC Section 322 and OSSC Appendix Q, condition #9.

13. Can a jurisdiction deny valet trash collection service (OFC Appendix O) in an apartment building built with a single exit stairway in accordance with OSSC Appendix Q?

A: Yes. While such a building is required to have a fire sprinkler system, allowing combustible trash in the egress corridors would still create an increased fire risk. In addition, trash containers may reduce the effective corridor width and create obstructions to safe evacuation. For these reasons, a jurisdiction may deny valet trash collection service. Whatever decision is made, it should be applied consistently across similar situations.

14. Can a jurisdiction inform occupants of the limited ingress/egress of these occupancies.

A: Yes. Such a notice could be a part of Oregon Fire Code Section 403.9.2.2 which allows the fire code official to require approved fire safety and evacuation plans for Group R occupancies, including evacuation instructions for each dwelling unit. See Question #10.

15. OSSC Appendix Q says that sprinkler systems for the stairs must comply with the requirements of NFPA 13 for combustible stairways. What does that mean?

A: Although this is a structural consideration governed by the building official at the time of construction, it is important for the fire code official to understand the requirement. Even if the building is equipped with an NFPA 13R system and the stairway is noncombustible construction, OSSC Appendix Q requires a NFPA 13 system coverage for the stairway. In practice, this means sprinklers must be installed at the top and bottom of the stair, as well as at every intermediate landing, treating the stair as if it were made of wood.

Online Resources:

The Gated Wye: Codes Corner “Single Exit Stairs” OSFM Technical Services. December 1, 2025. <https://osfmpublications.oregon.gov/the-gated-wye-december-2025>

NFPA Journal: “Single Stair, Many Questions”. Jesse Roman. August 6, 2024
<https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/nfpa-journal/2024/08/06/the-single-exit-stairwell-debate>

Joint statement: “Single Stairways in Multifamily Buildings”. International Association of Fire Fighters; Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association. June 2024
<https://www.iaff.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/JointStatement.pdf>

“Position in Opposition of Single-Exit Stairway in Multifamily Structures”. National Association of State Fire Marshals. Adopted March 1, 2024 NASFM Board of Directors.
https://www.firemarshals.org/resources/Documents/2024%20Newsletters/Single-Exit%20Stairway%20Position%20_28_24%20Final.pdf

“Single Stairways in Multifamily Buildings” Joint statement from the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (Metro Chiefs)
<https://www.iaff.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/JointStatement.pdf>

“Reducing Stairs in Residential Buildings Higher Than Three Stories”. International Association of Fire Chiefs.
<https://www.iafc.org/about-iafc/positions/position/reducing-stairs-in-residential-buildings-higher-than-three-stories>

You may contact the OSFM Technical Services Unit at 503-934-8204 or osfm.ofc@osfm.oregon.gov with any additional questions.

Group R-2 Single Exit Stair Buildings Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)



Department of Consumer
and Business Services

House Bill 3395 (2023) required the division and the Building Codes Structures Board to consider the inclusion of provisions in the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) to allow residential occupancies to be served by a single exit stair. Following review of emerging national codes and consultation with the fire service and local governments, the board and division approved OSSC Appendix Q, *Single Exit Provisions for Buildings Containing Group R-2 Dwelling Units*, for local adoption effective Oct. 1, 2025.

Single Exit Provisions for Buildings Containing Group R-2 Dwelling Units, Appendix Q

This appendix is a prospective local amendment – meaning that municipalities may adopt it locally, in its entirety, without requesting division approval and undergoing the local amendment process from Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 455.040. Local modification of any of the published construction standards within the appendix is not permitted. Any such proposed local modification would require submission and division approval of a formal local amendment request detailing the desired changes in accordance with ORS 455.040 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 918-020-0370.

It requires local fire service approval (based on their operational response capabilities and needs) and requires local municipality adoption via local ordinance – or similar local legally sufficient adoption method as determined by local legal counsel.

This appendix also does the following:

- Aligns with the current national approach on the matter, based on the national symposium discussion led by ICC and NFPA.
- Allows certain residential Group R-2 buildings up to and including 4 stories above grade to be served by a single exit stair.
- Limits the configuration of Group R-2 dwelling units as specified in the appendix.

The Oregon Fire Marshals Association and Oregon Fire Chiefs Association plans to publish a technical advisory in the near future to assist in local fire service approval decisions.

[View the 2025 OSSC - Appendix Q.](#)

Contact:

Visit the division website to [contact a building code specialist.](#)

Appendix Q – Single Exit Provisions for Buildings Containing Group R-2 Dwelling Units

Appendix Q is not adopted as part of this code and is only enforceable where approved by the local fire service and adopted by the local municipality.

User note: Appendix Q provides provisions that allow a single exit stairway to serve certain Group R-2 occupancies that are multifamily residential structures not greater than four stories above grade plane. The purpose of this appendix is to allow a single exit stairway in residential buildings containing Group R-2 dwelling units exceeding three stories above grade plane under the stated parameters. This appendix provides an alternative single exit stairway design option to those listed in Section 1006.3.3.

The capabilities of and resources available to the responding fire and emergency service agencies shall be considered locally prior to adoption of this appendix. Not all agencies have the appropriate aerial apparatus, personnel, operational response capabilities, or water supply necessary to adequately respond to a structure designed using this appendix.

Municipal reference or use of NFPA 1300: Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development, or the community risk assessment and standard of cover methodologies of the Center for Public Safety Excellence Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CPSE CFAI) may be determined to be an appropriate means or methodology to measure the local fire and emergency service agency's ability to adequately respond to these types of structures and their occupants during emergent conditions.

SECTION Q101—GENERAL

Q101.1 Applicability. Where approved by the local fire service and adopted by the local *municipality*, the provisions of this appendix shall be permitted.

Q101.2 General. In addition to the *means of egress* requirements of Chapter 10, buildings containing Group R-2 *dwelling units* shall be permitted to be served by a single exit stairway under the following conditions:

1. The building shall not exceed four stories above grade plane in *building height*. The application of Section 510 is not permitted.
2. The *net floor area* of each story shall not exceed 4,000 square feet (419 m²).
3. Not more than four *dwelling units* shall be located on any *story*.
4. Exit access travel distance shall not exceed 125 feet (38 m) feet.
5. Openings to *interior exit stairway* enclosures shall be limited to those required for exit access into the enclosure from normally occupied spaces, those required for egress from the enclosure, and openings to the exterior. Elevators shall not open into the *interior exit stairway* enclosure.
6. *Emergency escape and rescue openings* shall be provided in accordance with Section 1031.
7. A *manual fire alarm system* and *automatic smoke detection system* that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be provided. Smoke detectors shall be located in common spaces outside of *dwelling units*, including but not limited to gathering areas, laundry rooms, mechanical equipment rooms, storage rooms, interior corridors, *interior exit stairways*, and *exit passageways*.
8. Regardless of the building or stairway type of construction, *automatic sprinkler* locations in *interior exit stairways* shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 13 for combustible stairways.
9. Electrical receptacles shall not be permitted in *interior exit stairways*.
10. Mezzanines and sleeping lofts are not permitted.