

## Fire Escape

Definition: A staircase or apparatus that provides a means of alternative emergency egress from the interior of the building to the exterior.

Name emergency egress, exit stairs, fire escape  
Variants:

Most metal  
Common  
Materials:

Most stairs, ladder, platform, guardrail  
Common  
Components:

## Location & Inspection of Fire Escape

Abilities or Knowledge Needed:	- Visual acuity for location & inspection
	- Mobility for access to all areas of the property
	- Understanding of item's components

Tools for Location & Inspection	Useful:	none
	Required:	none

Common Locations:	Outside:	exterior of building—typically high-rises and other multi-story buildings—near windows
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How to Locate:	Visual Observation:	Look on the outside of the building
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Possible Deficiencies:	Deficiency 1:	Component damaged or missing
	Deficiency 2:	Ladder will not drop down
	Deficiency 3:	Fire escape is blocked.

## Deficiency 1:

## Component damaged or missing

Rationale:	Maintenance:	Indicates maintenance staff is not identifying deficiencies or responding to self-generated or complaint-driven work orders.
	Health and Safety:	Increases probability residents will not be able to egress the building in the event of a fire or another emergency.
	Operability:	Prevents proper use of the fire escape.
Health and Safety:	Severe:	This is a life-threatening or severe health and safety issue requiring a 24-hour repair, correction, or act of abatement.
How to Inspect:	Visual Observation:	Look at each of the fire escapes components, including the stairs, platform, ladder, and handrails for damage and to see if any are missing.
	Action:	Walk up and down the stairs and across the platform to feel for any weakness in structural integrity that might suggest damage of a missing component. Grab the handrail and apply a moderate amount of force back and forth to feel for any weakness in structural integrity that might indicate damage or a missing component.
	Please note:	For the purposes of this deficiency, inspect and test the handrail using the standards for that item.
Record deficiency if:	stairs, ladder, platform, or handrails are damaged or missing.	

Deficiency 2:

Ladder will not drop down

Rationale:	Maintenance:	Indicates maintenance staff is not identifying deficiencies or responding to self-generated or complaint-driven work orders.
	Health and Safety	Increases probability that the resident will not be able to egress properly in the event of a fire or another emergency.
	Operability:	Prevents proper use of the fire escape.
Health and Safety:	Severe:	This is a life-threatening or severe health and safety issue requiring a 24-hour repair, correction, or act of abatement.
How to Inspect:	Visual Observation:	Look at the ladder on the lowest level of the fire escape.
	Request for Help:	Ask the POA or representative to pull down the ladder.
Record deficiency if:	the ladder does not drop down sufficiently to allow intended use of fire escape.	

Deficiency 3:

Fire escape is blocked

Rationale:	Maintenance:	Indicates maintenance staff is not identifying deficiencies or responding to self-generated or complaint-driven work orders.
	Health and Safety:	Increases probability residents will not be able to egress the building in the event of a fire or another emergency.
	Operability:	Prevents proper use of the fire escape.

Health and Safety:	Severe:	This is a life-threatening or severe health and safety issue requiring a 24-hour repair, correction, or act of abatement.
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How to Inspect:	Visual Observation:	Look at all sections of the fire escape for foreign objects and material that might prevent rapid egress.
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Record deficiency if:	any objects or materials are located on fire escape that limit egress.
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