

**TITLE:** EGRESS  
**VERSION:** V3.0  
**DATE PUBLISHED:** 06/20/23

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**DEFINITION:** A safe, continuous, and unobstructed path of travel from any point in the building, unit, or structure to the public way.  
**PURPOSE:** Provide a means of escape and rescue access in the event of an emergency.  
**COMMON COMPONENTS:** Door; Window; Escape ladder; Fire escape; Stairwell  
**LOCATION:** ☒ Unit Hallway, stairwell, corridor, sleeping room  
☒ Inside Hallway, stairwell, corridor  
☒ Outside Hallway, stairwell, corridor  
**MORE INFORMATION:** Related standards: Door — Entry; Door — General; Window; Stairs; Fire Escape; and Sidewalk, Walkway, and Ramp

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**DEFICIENCY 1:** Obstructed means of egress.  
**LOCATION:** ☒ Unit ☒ Inside ☒ Outside

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**DEFICIENCY 2:** Sleeping room is located on the third floor or below and has an obstructed rescue opening.  
**LOCATION:** ☒ Unit

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**DEFICIENCY 3:** Fire escape access is obstructed.  
**LOCATION:** ☒ Unit ☒ Inside ☒ Outside

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DEFICIENCY I — UNIT: OBSTRUCTED MEANS OF EGRESS.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: The exit access or exit is obstructed.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:
- Identify the exit access and exit.
  - Visually inspect for any obstruction that may render the means of egress inaccessible.
- REQUEST FOR HELP: - None
- ACTION: - None
- MORE INFORMATION:
- An exit access is a path from any interior location to an exit.
  - An exit is a door to the outside or enclosed exit stairway.
  - If there is a fire escape adjacent to the rescue opening, then evaluate under Deficiency 3.
  - The following are examples of conditions on doors and windows that may obstruct means of egress:
    - Double key cylinder deadbolt locks or any lock that requires a key, a tool, or special knowledge or effort to operate (from the egress side) are not allowed on any door that serves as an exit or any door along the exit access.
    - Window locks that require a key, a tool, or special knowledge or effort to operate (from the egress side).
    - When fixed security bars are present that cover a window or door that is the designated means of egress from the building.
    - Any lock on movable security bars for doors or windows requiring a key (special tool) to open, whether locked or unlocked at the time of inspection.
    - Placement of an item or furniture that obstruct a means of egress.

DEFICIENCY I — INSIDE: OBSTRUCTED MEANS OF EGRESS.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: The exit access or exit is obstructed.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION: - Identify the exit access and exit.  
 - Visually inspect for any obstruction that may render the means of egress inaccessible.

REQUEST FOR HELP: - None

ACTION: - None

MORE INFORMATION: - An exit access is a path from any interior location to an exit.  
 - An exit is a door to the outside or enclosed exit stairway.  
 - If there is a fire escape adjacent to the rescue opening, then evaluate under Deficiency 3.  
 - The following are examples of conditions on doors and windows that may obstruct means of egress:  
   - Double key cylinder deadbolt locks or any lock that requires a key, a tool, or special knowledge or effort to operate (from the egress side) are not allowed on any door that serves as an exit or any door along the exit access.  
   - Window locks that require a key, a tool, or special knowledge or effort to operate (from the egress side).  
   - When fixed security bars are present that cover a window or door that is the designated means of egress from the building.  
   - Any lock on movable security bars for doors or windows requiring a key (special tool) to open, whether locked or unlocked at the time of inspection.  
   - Placement of an item or furniture that obstruct a means of egress.

DEFICIENCY I — OUTSIDE: OBSTRUCTED MEANS OF EGRESS.

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DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: The exit discharge is obstructed.

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HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

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INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:
    - Identify the exit discharge.
    - Visually inspect for any obstruction that may render the means of egress inaccessible.
  - REQUEST FOR HELP: - None
  - ACTION: - None
  - MORE INFORMATION: - An exit discharge is a path from an exit to a public way.
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**DEFICIENCY 2 — UNIT:** SLEEPING ROOM IS LOCATED ON THE THIRD FLOOR OR BELOW AND HAS AN OBSTRUCTED RESCUE OPENING.

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**DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:** Sleeping room is located on the third floor or below and has an obstructed rescue opening.

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**HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:** Life-Threatening      The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.

**CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:** 24 hours

**HCV PASS / FAIL:** Fail

**HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:** 24 hours

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**INSPECTION PROCESS:**

- OBSERVATION:**
    - Identify rooms used for sleeping.
    - Visually inspect for any obstructed rescue opening.
  - REQUEST FOR HELP:**
    - None
  - ACTION:**
    - Verify the egress door fully opens, if applicable.
    - Verify the egress window fully opens, if applicable.
  - MORE INFORMATION:**
    - If the egress door is an entry door into the Unit, then evaluate under Deficiency 1.
    - If there is a fire escape adjacent to the rescue opening, then evaluate under Deficiency 3.
    - Resident-owned property should not be evaluated as an obstruction to the rescue opening.
    - The following are examples of conditions on doors and windows that may obstruct means of egress:
      - Double key cylinder deadbolt locks or any lock that requires a key, a tool, or special knowledge or effort to operate (from the egress side) are not allowed on any door that serves as an exit or any door along the exit access.
      - Window locks that require a key, a tool, or special knowledge or effort to operate (from the egress side).
      - When fixed security bars are present that cover a window or door that is the designated means of egress from the building.
      - Any lock on movable security bars for doors or windows requiring a key (special tool) to open, whether locked or unlocked at the time of inspection.
      - Placement of an item or furniture that is not resident owned and obstructs a means of egress.
      - A permanently installed window-mounted air conditioner.
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DEFICIENCY 3 — UNIT: FIRE ESCAPE ACCESS IS OBSTRUCTED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: Fire escape access is obstructed.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION: - Identify all fire escapes.  
 - Visually inspect for any obstructed fire escapes.

REQUEST FOR HELP: - None

ACTION: - None

MORE INFORMATION: - Resident-owned property should not be evaluated as an obstruction to the fire escape access.  
 - The following are examples of conditions on doors and windows that may obstruct means of egress:  
 - Double key cylinder deadbolt locks or any lock that requires a key, a tool, or special knowledge or effort to operate (from the egress side) are not allowed on any door that serves as an exit or any door along the exit access.  
 - Window locks that require a key, a tool, or special knowledge or effort to operate (from the egress side).  
 - When fixed security bars are present that cover a window or door that is the designated means of egress from the building, or a window that is the designed egress point to a designated fire escape.  
 - Any lock on movable security bars for doors or windows requiring a key (special tool) to open, whether locked or unlocked at the time of inspection.  
 - Placement of an item or furniture that is not resident owned and obstructs a means of egress.  
 - A permanently installed window-mounted air conditioner.