

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Stairway Floor Number Signs

Learning objective: The student shall be able to identify requirements for floor identification signs in exit enclosures.

Once a person enters an exit enclosure, he or she may lose his or her sense of location within a building. During fire operations, this potential for disorientation may have catastrophic consequences.

The building and fire codes require that stair enclosures three or more stories (ICC codes) and five or more stories (NFPA codes) have stairway identification signs posted 5 feet above the floor

landing, where they will not be obstructed by doors in the open or closed position.



The signs must identify the stair enclosure (e.g., North Stair, A Stair, Stairway No. 1), the floor level, and the terminus of the top and bottom of the enclosure. The sign also must identify the floor level of and direction to the exit discharge. If the stair enclosure provides roof access, that information must be provided on the sign.

For additional information, refer to *International Fire Code*[®] and *International Building Code*[®], Chapter 10; and NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*[™], Chapter 10; and NFPA 5000, *Building Construction and Safety Code*[™], Chapter 11.