



Kansas Statute Annotated 31-133 gives the Office of the State Fire Marshal responsibility for promulgating regulations to govern the maintenance and construction of exits in all buildings in Kansas other than one and two family dwellings. Historically, the most significant loss of life in buildings from fire is when exits are locked, blocked and/or obstructed. Fire prevention inspections have documented a disturbing number of exit obstructions in schools, colleges, health care, and assembly areas in the State of Kansas.

The ability to escape a building in an emergency is the most important life safety issue. The Kansas Fire Prevention Code, International Building Codes, International Fire Code, and the Life Safety Code each provide guidance for the construction and maintenance of exit systems in buildings. The exit system includes the exit access (corridors), the exit door, and the exit discharge.

All exits carry specific requirements to protect the building occupants. **It is the duty of owners and operators to inspect all facility exits daily to make sure all exit doors and other exit devices are in proper working condition and are available for immediate use.**

Always assure each of the following:

- All exit doors are unlocked during occupancy (See Door Locking Fire Fact)
- All exit doors are fully operational and maintained
- No exits are hidden or disguised. No curtains or furnishings can obstruct the view of any exit.
- All exits are properly identified with exit signs and are obvious exits when viewed
- Required exit access, exit, and exit discharge are maintained free of obstructions or impediments to full instant use
- The exit discharge is a hard surface and is cleared of snow, ice, and other impediments
- Building occupants, even when unfamiliar with the building, should be able to rapidly and orderly locate the closest exit in the event of an emergency.
- Any magnetic exit lock is regularly tested to instantly release upon activation of numeric code, key, sprinkler or fire alarm activation, delayed egress device and loss of power .
- Egress doors shall be readily operable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort. No hasp, chain, drop bars, dead bolts, or padlocks can be placed on any exit door at any time.