



**ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION
4700 Elmore Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907) 267-4900**



Policy #14-003 LOCKING STAIRWELL DOORS IN MID-RISE BUILDINGS

References: 2009 IFC Section 1008.1.9.10

Due to security concerns, there is a desire to lock stair doors in mid-rise buildings (under 75 feet) from the non-egress side. The challenge this creates is not being able to get back into a floor to access another stair or means of egress in an emergency when that stairwell is blocked or full of smoke. Buildings up to 4 stories are currently permitted to be locked from the side opposite the egress side, provided they are openable from the egress side and capable of being unlocked simultaneously without unlatching upon a signal from a single location inside the main entrance to the building. With approval of the Fire Marshal, this provision will also be applicable to buildings with more than 4 stories up to 75 feet if the following criteria are met:

1. Only buildings with a sprinkler system and an addressable fire alarm may use this policy.
2. Doors shall be capable of being unlocked simultaneously *without unlatching* upon a signal from emergency personnel from a single location inside the main entrance to the building.
3. Activation of the building fire alarm system shall automatically unlock the stairway doors, and the doors shall remain unlocked until the fire alarm system has been reset.
4. Smoke detection is provided in the qualifying stairwells at the top and under every other landing. These detectors must be tied to the fire alarm and release the door locks when they activate.
5. Signage must be provided at all floor doors in the stairwells that reads, "Access to floors is restricted. Use 1st floor door for egress"
6. The stairway exit discharge door (typically at the first floor) must always be unlocked.

Any proposal must be submitted in writing to the Fire Marshal for review before work commences. A fire inspection will be conducted to verify conditions and any work on the fire alarm systems is subject to permitting and inspection per AMC 23.10.