



Design Standard Area of Rescue

Purpose

An Area of Rescue is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act as an area, which has direct access to an exit, where people who are unable to use stairs may remain temporarily in safety to await further instructions or assistance during emergency evacuation. The ADA requires these special emergency gathering areas for disabled persons. This part of the Act applies to new multi-story buildings in the South San Francisco Unified School District (CBC 2007, Section 1007.3). Its ultimate purpose is to provide a way to locate and communicate with those persons who need emergency assistance because they are unable to safely negotiate emergency stairways alone.

This design standard describes the District's standard equipment and protocols to achieve compliance with the Area of Rescue requirement. Design teams shall incorporate this equipment into capital construction projects, as required by code.

Design Standard

A. Two Way Communication with Visible Communication Method

CBC 1007.6.3 requires that areas of rescue be provided with a two-way communication system between the area of refuge and a central control point. The two-way communication system shall include both audible and visible signals.

CBC 1007.6.3.1 requires a visible communication method. A button complying with Section 1117B.6 in the area of rescue shall activate both a light in the area of refuge indicating that rescue has been requested and a light at the central control point indicating that rescue is being requested. A button at the central control point shall activate both a light at the central control point and a light in the area of refuge indicating that the request has been received.

B. Central Control Point

CBC 1007.6.3 requires that the central control point be constantly attended, and the location of that central control point shall be approved by the fire department.



South San Francisco Unified School District



Section 27 51 13

Version 1, 2011.9.30

C. Instructions

CBC 1007.6.4 requires that in areas of rescue that have a two-way emergency communications system, instructions on the use of the area under emergency conditions shall be posted adjoining the communications system. The instructions shall include all of the following and shall comply with Section 1117B.5.I, Item 2:

1. Directions to find other means of egress.
2. Persons able to use the exit stairway do so as soon as possible, unless they are assisting others.
3. Information on planned availability of assistance in the use of stairs or supervised operation of elevators and how to summon such assistance.
4. Directions for use of the emergency communications system.

CBC 1007.6.5 requires that each door providing access to an area of refuge from an adjacent floor area shall be identified by a sign complying with Section 1117B.5.1, Item 2, stating:

AREA OF RESCUE, and including the International Symbol of Accessibility. Where exit sign illumination is required by Section 1011.2, the area of refuge sign shall be illuminated. Additionally, tactile signage complying with Section 1117B.5.1, Item 1 shall be located at each door to an area of rescue.

D. SSFUSD Standard Area of Rescue Communication Device and Instructions

- Mount the master telephone/display station and all area of rescue communications stations to comply with applicable accessible height, reach, and clear floor area requirements. It is preferable that both the master station, secondary master station, and all area of rescue stations be mounted so that the face of each is flush with the adjacent wall surface. When this is not feasible, for stations that project more than 4" from the adjacent wall and whose bottom edge is higher than 27", mount each station so that it does not project into the path of travel or otherwise provide with required detection system (e.g., guardrail, wing walls, or wall furring) to avoid creating a hazard for persons with visual impairments, per CBC 2007 and ADA requirements.
- One master telephone/display station shall be provided at the facility's main office and secondary master display stations shall be provided at locations of all remote fire alarm annunciator panels (FAAPs). Review and obtain Fire Department approval for system design, layout, and installation at the same time as that for the facility's main fire alarm system. Coordinate with design and installation of the security system to provide security camera coverage for each area of rescue assistance provided.
- Refer to SSFUSD's Section 10 14 16 Interior Building Informational Signage Design Standard for detailed information about associated Area of Refuge signage.



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- Specify the installation of the emergency phone and the instructional signage to achieve a unified and cohesive appearance, as follows:



Approved Manufacturers

- o TalkAPhone

Substitutes Allowed?

- o Yes, if performance and quality equivalency can be evidenced.

Associated Design Standards

- o Not applicable

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