



TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

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Fire Marshal's Office

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EMERGENCY LIGHTING & EXIT SIGN TESTING

Emergency lighting provides two safeguards for a building in the event of power failure:

First, safe and prompt access to emergency exits (egress), and second, to provide lighting of sufficient levels, and for a sufficiently long duration, to permit safe and orderly shutdown of processes that might become hazardous if simply abandoned.

Frequently, inspectors find that emergency lighting units have been installed and subsequently forgotten. Most emergency lighting units use batteries, which have a limited life span and are subject to failure without warning. The "charging" light may be lit on the units, but this does not guarantee the lights will come on when the power fails.

The Fire Prevention Code requires that emergency lighting and exit signage units can provide illumination for 90 Minutes after power failure at a level sufficiently bright enough to allow persons to see their way to exits or to safely shut down processes and machinery, etc.

Testing of required emergency lighting systems shall be conducted as follows by the Owner / Occupant:

1. Functional testing shall be conducted monthly with a minimum of 3 weeks and a maximum of 5 weeks between tests, for not less than 30 seconds.

This means that approximately monthly, the "push-button" test should be conducted by pressing the "test" button on the unit and holding it for 30 seconds. If the device does not light, the lamps are dim or it fails to light at full brilliance for 30 seconds, the unit should be serviced, repaired, or replaced.

2. Functional testing shall be conducted annually for a minimum of 90 Minutes if the emergency lighting system is battery powered.

The annual test requires that the power be interrupted to the emergency lighting unit, by unplugging it, throwing a circuit breaker or other safe means, so no line power reaches it. If the unit does not provide light of normal brilliance for 90 Minutes, it should be serviced, repaired, or replaced.

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3. Written records of visual inspections and tests shall be kept by the owner/occupant for inspection by the Fire Marshal.

A simple log should be maintained, containing the following information: description of the building's emergency lighting equipment, by numbering system, or other system showing location; test dates and times; the tester's name; results of the test; and comments for referring failed tests to the appropriate persons for repair or replacement.