

Tool Box Talk

CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCESS/EGRESS

Jan 2016

Access and Egress

- ✂ **Access**— the means/route of *entering* a worksite
- ✂ **Egress** — the means/route of *exiting* a worksite



Controlling the Hazards

To effectively control the risks on site associated with access and egress, ensure:

- Ice and snow are cleared off of stairs and walkways
- Tripping hazards are removed (ex. extension cords, boxes, tools) and materials are stored in the appropriate place
- Corridors or stairways are not being used for storage or office/laboratory operations
- Quality and proper lighting—whether natural or artificial—is used (without glare or shadows)
- Structural ramps used solely for access/egress are designed by a competent person
- Ramps are structurally sound and do not create a tripping hazard
- Surface treatments are used on ramps to prevent slipping
- Means of egress are fixed and secure
- Any staircase with (5) or more steps has a handrail the length of the stairs

Emergency Situations

Emergency access and egress are crucial during emergency situations, such as a fire or an onsite injury requiring medical attention.

Some of the questions to keep in mind, are:

- Can a stretcher (gurney) easily get on site and wheel across the floor/ground? Is there uneven ground that would further impact the condition of an already injured worker? (ex. neck injury)
- Are all means of egress kept clean, clutter-free, and unobstructed?
- Are hazardous materials or equipment placed in their appropriate places and not in areas used for evacuation?
- Are fire doors kept closed at all times to act as smoke barriers and limit the spread of a potential fire?



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