

POLICY 1.32 – Building Corridor Policy

Policy Category: General

Effective Date: April 1, 2009

Supersedes: May 9, 2002

INTRODUCTION

The University of Western Ontario has a commitment to students, faculty members, staff, and visitors to provide safe egress in all buildings on campus. The University supports a safe working and learning environment, and prohibits storage or the installation of anything in all exit ways.

The Ontario Fire Code directs that no means of egress may be obstructed, blocked, reduced, or otherwise impeded by any object, article, or equipment not included in the original design of the building.

Faculties, departments, and budget units are responsible for their own equipment, as well as shared equipment, that is located in corridors. They must also monitor the condition of corridors used by their staff during day to day operations to ensure that possible obstructions are dealt with proactively, and are removed in accordance with this policy. Appropriate funds to maintain clear corridors must be included in each group's budget planning cycle.

Any infractions noted during regular inspections by the Department of Occupational Health and Safety or Fire Safety will be reported to the Dean, Department Head, or Leader, of the responsible group.

POLICY

1.00 Obstruction of a means of egress

- 1.01 No person shall at any time place an encumbrance of any kind in a means of egress including public or secondary corridors, fire exits, stairways, landings, aisles, fire escapes, or other exits intended to be used during an emergency.
- 1.02 No means of egress shall be blocked or obstructed with chairs, tables, equipment, storage, vending machines or other articles that would reduce the exiting width.
- 1.03 Every means of egress shall be so maintained as to provide free and unobstructed exiting from all parts of the building at all times so as to be available for full instant use in the case of an emergency.
- 1.04 All exit doors must be useable without keys, access cards, or specialized knowledge. Magnetic locks, and other locking security systems, must release automatically when a fire alarm is sounded, and must be reset manually at a secure location. Exit doors cannot be tied, chained, or otherwise secured in a closed position in a manner that would not allow their use during an emergency.

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2.00 Hallways/Corridors

- 2.01 No person shall place, store or keep any materials of any kind in a hallway. The use of laboratory or office equipment in the hallway is not permitted. Only drinking water fountains, fire suppression equipment, and safety equipment can be installed in hallways.
- 2.02 Permanently attached lockers, bulletin boards, display cabinets, may be permitted in some locations, subject to the approval of the Division of Facilities Management, Fire Safety, and the Department of Occupational Health and Safety.

3.00 Stair towers/wells

- 3.01 The storage of any materials on stairs, or in stair towers is strictly forbidden. Items found in these locations will be immediately removed, at the owner's expense.

4.00 Fire Doors

- 4.01 Fire doors must not be blocked or wedged in the open position. Doors that are held open by automatic release devices which will function when the fire alarm sounds will be allowed.

5.00 Exterior Steps and Walks

- 5.01 Areas immediately outside of a required fire exit must be maintained free of obstructions, including ice and snow.

6.00 Temporary Obstructions

- 6.01 If it is necessary to temporarily place equipment, building materials, etc., in a corridor, approval must be obtained from UWO Fire Safety.
- 6.02 A minimum of 42 inches of clearance in the corridor must be maintained at all times. If the corridor is located in a high traffic area, more clearance will be required.
- 6.03 A corridor that contains temporary obstructions must be signed as such at all entrances (stair tower doors, adjoining corridors or tunnels, etc.) to the area.
- 6.04 A corridor cannot be obstructed for more than 4 days unless approved.
- 6.05 Temporary obstructions cannot be placed in stair towers, or in a manner that would prevent the use of a designated fire exit.