


TECHNICAL BULLETIN CITY OF RALEIGH, N.C. www.raleighnc.gov				OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL	
Subject	Bulletin #	SECTION	PAGE	EFFECTIVE DATE	
Multi story building 4 stories or greater	TB-13	NCFPC	1 of 3	12/1/2006	
		PREPARED BY Office of the Fire Marshal			Revision Date 06/01/2019

1.0 **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to reduce hazards to firefighters and provide directional information in buildings, providing aid to building occupants and firefighters during emergency operations.

2.0 **Organization(s) Affected**

Raleigh Fire Department (Office of the Fire Marshal), Fire sprinkler contractors, and Fire alarm contractors.

3.0 **References**

Current adopted edition North Carolina Fire Prevention Code, North Carolina Building Code

4.0 **Definitions**

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following definitions shall, for the purposes of this technical bulletin, have the meanings as shown in 4.0.

High rise buildings are buildings where the highest occupied floor level is 75 feet or greater above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.

5.0 **Requirements**

- 5.1 New buildings, accessible to fire department aerial apparatus four or more stories in height with roof slopes less than 4/12 shall be provided with a minimum of one stairway to the roof. Roof hatches (minimum dimension 2', minimum size 16 square feet) with permanent fixed ladders or stairs are acceptable in non-high rise buildings. Roof Hatches shall be operable from the roof without special tools.
- 5.2 New buildings, not accessible to fire department aerial apparatus four or more stories in height with roof slopes less than 4/12 shall be provided with a minimum of two stairways (penthouse type) to the roof. Alternating tread type stairs are not acceptable under any circumstance. Un-restricted access without special tools from the roof must be provided in both stairwells.
- 5.3 New buildings in the high rise category shall be provided with a minimum of two stairways (penthouse type) to the roof. Alternating tread type stairs are not acceptable under any circumstance. Un-restricted access without special tools from the roof must be provided to both stairwells.

- 5.4 Additional approved signage shall be installed inside every stairwell indicating the stairwell designation and floor level. Signs shall be of contrasting color, located 24" above finished floor, and be permanently affixed to the wall on the latch side of the door within 12 inches. Minimum letter size is 1" height.
Additional approved signage shall be installed outside every stairwell (all levels) indicating if roof access is available from this stairwell. Signage shall be of contrasting color, located 24" above finished floor, and be permanently affixed to the wall on the latch side of the door within 12 inches.
- 5.5 Additional approved signage shall be installed outside every stairwell (all levels) indicating if roof access is available from this stairwell. Signage shall be of contrasting color, located 24" above finished floor, and be permanently affixed to the wall on the latch side of the door within 12 inches. Minimum letter size is 1" height.
- 5.6 At least one elevator shall be provided for fire department emergency access to all floors. Such elevator car shall be of such a size and arrangement to accommodate a 24-inch by 76-inch ambulance stretcher in the horizontal, open position and shall be identified by the star of life symbol not less than 3 inches in height on both sides of the hoist way door frame.
- 5.7 Exterior doors that have been rendered non functional shall have a sign affixed to the exterior side of the door with the words "THIS DOOR BLOCKED." This sign shall be at least 6" high letters in contrasting color. (Required exit and fire access doors shall not be blocked).
- 5.8 Vertical shafts that communicate between 2 or more floors, shall be identified at all openings with the word "Shaftway" in red letters 6" in height. (elevator car doors are exempted) Doors that are full height shall be marked with additional signs located 24" above finished floor.
- 5.9 Rooms containing controls for air-conditioning systems, sprinkler risers and valves, or other fire detection, suppression, or control elements shall be identified for the use of the fire department. Approved signs shall be required to identify fire protection equipment and location. Doors to rooms containing fire protection equipment shall be identified at eye level with additional signs located 24" above finished floor.
- 5.10 All Fire Department Connections shall have permanent signage indicating the required system pressure. See TB-5 for sign details.
- 5.11 All Pressure Regulating Valves shall have permanent signage installed indicating the required system pressure and flow attached to the valve.
- 5.12 Fire Command Rooms shall have a permanent (laminated or under glass) plan showing the location of all sprinkler control valves with valve locations highlighted in "RED." System control valves shall indicate the area that they control. Systems with dual supplies shall be indicated on plan.
- 5.13 Consideration should be given to installing lighted exit signs 24" above finished floor to provide direction to building occupants attempting to escape smoke filled floors.
- 5.14 Additional Signage requirements are detailed in Technical Bulletin #5. Technical Bulletin # 13 requirements are in addition to the requirements of TB-5.

6.0 **Goal:**

The goal of this policy is to reduce hazards to firefighters and building occupants during emergency operations in smoke filled buildings. Providing additional informational signage greatly reduces hazards to firefighters and allows quicker access to occupants trapped within the building.