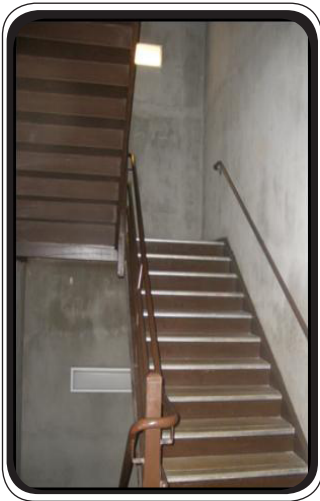


# Life Safety *Essentials*

No. 2008-11

*The Essential Life Safety Training Opportunity for Health Care Organizations*

## ILLUMINATION OF THE MEANS OF EGRESS



**Learning Objective:** To understand the applicable references regarding illumination of the means of egress.

Illumination of the means of egress is necessary to minimize danger to life from fire, smoke, fumes, or panic. Maintenance personnel should pay particular attention to this feature to insure such lighting is properly installed and maintained.

When applying The Joint Commission Statement of Conditions™ consider 5C for both existing and new health care occupancies which asks, “Are means of egress adequately illuminated at all points, including angles and intersections of corridors and passageways, stairways, landings of stairs, and stairs?” NFPA 101®, Life Safety Code®, 2000 edition, Section 18.2.8 for new health care occupancies and Section 19.2.8 for existing health care occupancies states, “Means of egress shall be illuminated in accordance with Section 7.8.” Section 7.8.1.1\* requires illumination only for designated stairs, aisles, corridors, ramps, escalators, and passageways leading to an exit. Likewise, the exit discharge requires illumination for these same components and includes walkways, and exit passageways leading to a public way. Section 7.8.1.4\* requires illumination to be arranged so that the failure of any single lighting unit does not result in an illumination level of less than 0.2 ft-candle (2 lux) in any designated area. An example of the failure of any single lighting unit is the burning out of an electric bulb as shown in the example pictured.

Organizations who have a Building Maintenance Program will want to insure the means of egress illumination devices are properly functioning in accordance with 6J.7 for existing health care occupancies or 6I.7 for new health care occupancies as prescribed in the Statement of Conditions™.