

# WHY EVALUATE MEANS OF EGRESS?

INTRODUCTION TO MEANS OF EGRESS SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | JANUARY 2023

## SUMMARY

Means of Egress is a system that we use to describe, size and position building elements to make sure that people can escape a building in a smooth and expeditious manner. Why evaluate it?

1. **To keep people alive.** Of course this is the main objective of fire protection and the purpose behind our industry's existence, but ultimately the goal is to help protect and save lives.
2. **To learn from history.** We develop rules and regulations via codes & standards so that we don't repeat some of the worst parts of our history.
3. It's our **best method of quantifying the acceptable level of safety.** Without defining, quantifying and evaluating the building components and systems, we wouldn't have a repeatable way of establishing or assessing the level of fire safety within a building.
4. It's **required by law.** Evaluating means of egress is required by adopted building codes. As the responsible design professional, we are ethically and professionally obligated to protect public welfare by adhering to building codes and standards, which requires this evaluation.



#1 To Keep People Alive



#2 Overcome Historical Tragedies



#3 Best Way to Quantify Acceptable Level of Safety



#4 It's Required by Law

## VIDEO LINK

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