

# WHO EVALUATES MEANS OF EGRESS?

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

## SUMMARY

There are many roles and responsibilities for a project with respect of Means of Egress. Specific project circumstances, jurisdictional requirements and other factors can influence *who* provides and is responsible for the design and implementation of Egress requirements. In general, during design:

- The **Architect** is *usually* the captain for the design of a project. They often are the point person and responsible party for sizing, locating, and making sure that egress components meet the requirements of the building code.
- A **Consultant** can, and often does, help with egress. This is especially true for novel, complex, or unique situations. A consultant may suggest solutions for code compliance, may review plans and provide recommendations to comply with code, may answer questions, may submit code modification requests, and/or may speak directly with the jurisdictions to develop code-compliant solutions.
- An **Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)** acts as a third-party check. They are *not* professionally responsible or liable for ensuring that a building meets code. It is the responsible design professional's duty and liability for situations where the building does not meet code. This role usually takes the form of **plan review** and **inspections** as a check to ensure the building is safe to construct, occupy, and has features for the fire department to effectively fight a fire.

During the lifetime of the building:

- A **building owner** is responsible, by code, to maintain the building in a safe manner. This includes ensuring that the means of egress remains reliable (cannot be locked, blocked, or otherwise rendered unusable).
- An **Inspector** will perform regular (usually annual, but can vary) inspections as a check to help maintain code compliance.



**Architect**

(Generally the “captain” and responsible design professional for means of egress decisions)



**Consultant**

(Can help provide solutions and/or review work)



**Authority Having Jurisdiction**

(Includes plan review and inspections as a “check”, but not as the responsible design professional)



**Building Owner**

(responsible for maintaining the building in a safe manner)



**Inspector (Authority Having Jurisdiction)**

(Regular inspections during lifetime of the building)

## VIDEO LINK

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