

# WHAT IS AN OCCUPANT LOAD?

INTRODUCTION TO OCCUPANT LOADS SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | DECEMBER 2022

## SUMMARY

An **Occupant Load** is a number that represents the **maximum probable number of occupants** within a room or space that is **consistent with its intended function**. It's not an average count of people in a building, or a maximum possible, but instead **should represent a worst-case, yet realistic, scenario** for the intended use of a room or space.



Example of High Occupant Load  
(Concert Venue)



Example of Lower Occupant Load  
(Warehouse)



Realistic Occupant Load for Single-Person Office [Correct]  
(Max. *Probable* Number of Occupants within a Space based on Intended Function)



Unrealistic Occupant Load for Single-Person Office [Incorrect]  
(Maximum *Possible* Number of Occupants within a Space)

## VIDEO LINK

[www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-an-occupant-load](http://www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-an-occupant-load)

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