Ensuring Safety Exits and Smoke Alarms in Offices by Blake Mitchell

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Based on statistics from the United States Fire Administration, around 20,000 Americans are injured every year from fires. This figure has prompted federal governments to strictly enforce fire codes. A fire code is a series of regulations and laws that building administrators and home owners are legally obliged to observe on penalty of imprisonment. There are different fire codes according to the type and location of the establishment.

Among the most important requirements the federal government imposes on all establishments, both public and private, are fire exits and smoke alarms or detectors. Fire exits are emergency passageways located at the outside of a building where tenants should pass in case of fire or any emergency. Smoke alarms and detectors sound off when smoke is detected in an enclosed area. These help ensure the protection of building tenants and help save lives.

Buildings should have safety exits which residents and visitors can access in any emergency. These include fires, earthquakes and other natural calamities. These exits should be marked with posters and signs big enough to be read from a distance. A map of the building with indications of fire exit locations should be posted near the doors so people unfamiliar with the building lay-out can run to safety. As stated in fire codes, buildings including private residences should have two means of exit aside from the main doors. This can be windows in the kitchen or bathroom, or backdoor stairways.

Homeowners are also tasked to ensure that their houses have fire exits and smoke alarms. For rented apartments, the building owner has the responsibility to install and maintain these. Local fire inspectors and building inspectors also require them to install sprinkler systems inside apartments.

A good office space in Reston VA observes all fire code requirements and installs a reliable electrical system. Electrical sockets and connections are checked regularly to ensure that they are all properly wired and insulated. Any signs of loose or fraying wiring are immediately repaired. Circuit breakers are also inspected to make sure they are in order.

Building and house owners need to secure building permits before they begin any construction. Blueprints have to be submitted to concerned government agencies before of any construction or renovations starts. Permits are only given if the electrical and building plans show location of fire exits and smoke alarms. These requirements ensure that an office space in Reston VA is near a fire exit and has smoke alarms installed in it. Even the addition of a new wing or room has to be reported to local authorities, especially if the construction includes the installation of heating systems or new electric outlets.

In compliance with this requirement, any office space in Reston VA cannot be built near or adjacent to storage spaces where oil and petroleum supplies are kept. This means all office space lessees are safe from fire hazards and are ideal work places. For more information about fire safety, look up firstalert.com and homeguides.sfgate.com.

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