

What's Wrong with This Picture ?

Exit Corridor: Fire and Casualty Safety

See how many problems you can spot here in this protected exit corridor.



Note the potential hazards this large shop-made trophy case in the foreground presents. This wood and glass case is about sixteen feet long, two feet deep, and floor to ceiling high. There are also two or three other display cases further down the corridor.

The corridor was designed just wide enough to meet minimum code requirements for a safe, rapid exit. Adding trophy and display cases or lockers or other furniture reduces this minimum width and presents physical obstructions in an emergency evacuation. Note also how placement of cases obstructs sightlines to exit doors beyond and classroom doors between the cases. Remember any potential hazards presented by construction materials such as large sections of glass near the floor as well as combustible materials. Safety or tempered glass must be placed in certain areas to offset the casualty hazards of broken glass.

Keep in mind that exit path maps, “*You are Here*” signs, are required in certain locations to show occupants correct exit paths in an emergency. These signs must be readily visible and direct people through, clear and protected means of egress.