

ORDINANCE NO. 10530
(New Series)

MAR 23 1971

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER V, ARTICLE 5 OF THE SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING SECTION 55.13.29 RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION INVOLVING STAIRWAYS, SHAFTS, FIRE ESCAPES AND FIRE ESCAPE SIGNS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of The City of San Diego as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter V, Article 5 of the San Diego Municipal Code be amended by adding Section 55.13.29 to read as follows:

SEC. 55.13.29 Section 13.29 of the Uniform Fire Code Added.

a. Stairways and Shafts.

1. The stairways above the first floor and all shafts, elevator shafts, basement stairways and other ducts and openings within buildings or structures in existence at the time of the adoption of this section and in all buildings or structures repaired subsequent to the adoption of this section exceeding two stories in height, other than dwellings, office building stairways and theatre auditoriums shall be enclosed and so protected as to prevent fire and smoke in any one story from communicating to any other story, attic, basement or similar area. Except as otherwise provided in this Code or the San Diego Uniform Building Code all such

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protective enclosures mentioned in this Section shall be of not less than one-hour fire-resistive construction and when any building exceeds four stories in height, all such protective enclosures shall be of not less than one-hour fire-resistive incombustible construction.

2. The requirements of this section shall not apply to the stairways of any existing building whose owner or occupant shall have filed with the Building Official plans and specifications for an alternate method of protecting such building and its occupants from fire, and which plans and specifications shall produce substantially equal protection from fire as the methods required by this section. Such owner or occupant in order to bring himself within the provisions of this section shall immediately thereafter proceed with and complete the improvements provided for in said plans and specifications.

3. All openings in the above-mentioned enclosure walls shall be protected with self-closing fire doors or self-closing fire windows, and such doors and windows shall be kept normally closed. All self-closing devices

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required by this Code shall be of approved type, substantial and suitable for the purpose intended.

All shafts and similar enclosures when provided with skylights at the top shall be provided with an incombustible skylight glazed with plain glass not exceeding one-eighth inch (1/8") in thickness. The gross area of the glass shall be equal to at least 60 percent of the shaft area below. Immediately below such skylight there shall be a falling-glass protective screen made from No. 12 gauge wire, having a mesh not less than five-eighths inch (5/8") nor more than one and one-eighth inch (1-1/8").

4. In existing buildings the requirements prescribed for shafts above need not apply provided all shafts, halls, corridors, stairways, passageways, exitways and lobbies are protected with an approved automatic sprinkler system.

b. Fire Escapes on Existing Buildings.

1. All buildings in existence at the time of the adoption of this section, except private dwellings when more than two stories in height, shall be provided with at least two means of

egress. One may be an incombustible fire escape, but all others must conform to the provisions of the San Diego Uniform Building Code.

2. Every fire escape shall be located on the building in a manner which will furnish the best means of escape for the occupants and shall be located a consistent and safe escape distance from all interior stairways and landings. Access to fire escapes must be had by means of clear and unobstructed fire-resisting passageways or hallways.

3. All openings adjacent to and facing or opening toward any fire escape shall be protected with one-hour fire-resisting self-closing doors or fire windows. When a fire escape is located within a recess or vestibule, all enclosure walls adjacent to such fire escape shall be protected with not less than one-hour fire-resisting construction.

4. The level of the sill of a door or window giving access to a fire escape balcony shall be not more than twelve inches (12") above the floor of the building or fire escape balcony, and the minimum width of such door or

window opening shall not be less than thirty-three inches (33") in the clear nor less than seventy-two inches (72") in height, and no door or window shall be of a type that will materially obstruct the fire escape. All fastenings on any such door or window shall be of a type which can readily be opened from the interior of the building without the use of a key or other tool.

5. Fire escape stairways shall be provided with a top and intermediate handrail on each side. The pitch of the stairway shall not exceed 60 degrees; no tread shall be less than six inches (6") and the rise between treads shall not exceed ten inches (10"); and no such stairway shall be less than twenty inches (20") in width. No part of such stairway shall be located within twenty inches (20") of the wall paralleling same.

6. Fire escape balconies shall not be less than forty-four inches (44") in width measuring at right angles to the building; and no floor opening therein, except the stairway opening, shall be greater than five-eighths inch (5/8") in width. The stairway openings in such balcony shall be not less than twenty-two by forty-four

inches (22" x 44"). The balustrade of each balcony shall be not less than thirty-five inches (35") high, and there shall be no more than eight inches (8") between the balusters.

7. All fire escape stairways and balconies shall safely support all dead loads and a live load of 100 pounds per square foot. Fire escape ladders shall be designed to withstand a horizontal pressure of 100 pounds per lineal foot; each tread shall safely support 500 pounds, and all stair and balcony railings shall safely support a horizontal pressure of 70 pounds per lineal foot of railing.

8. No fire escape shall take the place of the necessary stairways required by this Code or by the Building Code under which the building was constructed.

9. Every fire escape shall at all times be maintained in good order and repair, be well painted, be kept clear and unobstructed, and be readily accessible.

10. All existing fire escapes and the arrangements and construction incident thereto which substantially comply with the spirit and intent of this Code need not be altered.

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11. An approved gooseneck ladder shall be provided between top landing and roof where no stair access is provided to such roof. Openings for same through cornices and similar projections must be at least thirty by thirty-three inches (30" x 33").

The lowest balcony of a fire escape shall not be more than twenty-two feet (22') from the ground, and all such balconies shall be provided with a ladder to within seven feet (7') of the ground, or shall be provided with an approved hydraulic or equivalent drop ladder which will extend to the ground on release.

All ladders and drop ladders described in this section shall be at least fifteen inches (15") wide, shall be located within twelve inches (12") of the building, and shall be placed flat wise relative to the face of the building. The ladder rungs shall be three-fourths inch (3/4") in diameter and shall be located twelve inches (12") on center.

c. Exit and Fire Escape Signs in Existing Buildings.

In all buildings in existence at the time of the adoption of this section, all exit and fire escape signs shall:

1. Except as otherwise specified herein, said exits must be provided with EXIT signs

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conspicuously located above the exit opening. All openings giving direct access to the fire escape shall be provided with FIRE ESCAPE signs conspicuously located above such opening.

2. No FIRE ESCAPE sign shall be substituted for an EXIT sign which is to designate the location of an exit, and no EXIT sign shall be substituted for a FIRE ESCAPE sign which is to designate the location of a fire escape.

3. In hallways, exit ways, and other locations where the EXIT and/or the FIRE ESCAPE signs are not always visible or not easily seen, electric illuminated directional signs pointing and directing passage to the EXITS and/or FIRE ESCAPES shall also be provided.

All directional signs shall be similar with conspicuous green-illuminated lettering therein at least three and one-half inches (3-1/2") in height.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force on the thirtieth day from and after its passage.

APPROVED: JOHN W. WITT, City Attorney

By 
Peter D. Bulens, Deputy

Passed and adopted by the Council of The City of San Diego on MAR 23 1971
 by the following vote:

RECEIVED
 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

1971 MAR -3 PM 12:37

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

Councilmen	Yeas	Nays	Excused	Absent
Helen Cobb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam T. Loftin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Henry L. Landt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leon L. Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floyd L. Morrow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Martinet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allen Hitch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Schaefer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Frank Curran	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AUTHENTICATED BY:

FRANK CURRAN
 Mayor of The City of San Diego, California.

EDWARD NIELSEN
 City Clerk of The City of San Diego, California.

(Seal)

By Elfa J. Hamel, Deputy.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing ordinance was not finally passed until twelve calendar days had elapsed between the day of its introduction and the day of its final passage, to wit, on

MAR 9 1971

MAR 23 1971

~~I FURTHER CERTIFY that said ordinance was read in full prior to its final passage.~~

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the reading of said ordinance in full was dispensed with by a vote of not less than a majority of the members elected to the Council, and that there was available for the consideration of each member of the Council and the public prior to the day of its passage a written or printed copy of said ordinance.

EDWARD NIELSEN

City Clerk of The City of San Diego, California.

(Seal)

By Elfa J. Hamel, Deputy.

Office of the City Clerk, San Diego, California	
Ordinance Number <u>10530</u>	Adopted <u>MAR 23 1971</u>

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ATTORNEY (5)

City of San Diego
City Clerk's Office
Community Concourse
San Diego, California

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
1971 APR - 2 PM 3:00
SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

No.

IN THE MATTER OF

FIRE PROTECTION INVOLVING STAIRWAYS, SHAFTS,
FIRE ESCAPES AND FIRE ESCAPE SIGNS

I, Patricia M. Applestill hereby certify that **The Daily Transcript** is a daily newspaper of general circulation within the provisions of the Government Code of the State of California, printed and published in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, State of California; that I am the principal clerk of said newspaper; that the

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(NEW SERIES)

to a true and correct copy of which this certificate is annexed was published in said newspaper on

April 1, 1971

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, at San Diego, California, on April 1, 1971

Patricia M. Applestill
(Signature)

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2. The requirements of this section shall not apply to the stairways of any existing building whose owner or occupant shall have filed with the Building Official plans and specifications for an alternate method of protecting such building and its occupants from fire, and which plans and specifications shall produce substantially equal protection from fire as the methods required by this section. Such owner or occupant in order to bring himself within the provisions of this section shall immediately thereafter proceed with and complete the improvements provided for in said plans and specifications.

3. All openings in the above-mentioned enclosure walls shall be protected with self-closing fire doors or self-closing fire windows, and such doors and windows shall be kept normally closed. All self-closing devices required by this Code shall be of approved type, substantial and suitable for the purpose intended.

All shafts and similar enclosures when provided with skylights at the top shall be provided with an incombustible skylight glazed with plain glass not exceeding one-eighth inch ($\frac{1}{8}$ ") in thickness. The gross area of the glass shall be equal to at least 60 percent of the shaft area below. Immediately below such skylight there shall be a falling-glass protective screen made from No. 12 gauge wire, having a mesh not less than five-eighths inch ($\frac{5}{8}$ ") nor more than one and one-eighth inch ($1\frac{1}{8}$ ").

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2. Every fire escape shall be located on the building in a manner which will furnish the best means of escape for the occupants and shall be located a consistent and safe escape distance from all interior stairways and landings. Access to fire escapes must be had by means of clear and unobstructed fire-resisting passageways or hallways.

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4. The level of the sill of a door or window giving access to a fire escape balcony shall be not more than twelve inches (12") above the floor of the building or fire escape balcony, and the minimum width of such door or window opening shall not be less than thirty-three inches (33") in the clear nor less than seventy-two inches (72") in height, and no door or window shall be of a type that will materially obstruct the fire escape. All fastenings on any such door or window shall be of a type which can readily be opened from the interior of the building without the use of a key or other tool.

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All directional signs shall be similar with conspicuous green-illuminated lettering therein at least three and one-half inches (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") in height.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force on the thirtieth day from and after its passage.

Introduced on March 9, 1971.

Passed and adopted by the Council of The City of San Diego on March 23, 1971.

AUTHENTICATED BY:

FRANK CURRAN,
Mayor of The City of
San Diego, California.
EDWARD NIELSEN,
City Clerk of The City of
San Diego, California.
By ELFA F. HAMEL,
Deputy.

(SEAL)

Published Apr. 1, 1971

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