



Notice/Reminder – Elevator Pit and Hoistway Access is LIMITED to Authorized Individuals

The Office of the Indiana State Fire Marshal provides the following notice/reminder that only elevator personnel licensed by the State of Indiana (or those accompanied by licensed and trained elevator personnel) may access elevator pits and hoistways. Elevator pits, hoistways, and the top of elevator cars are inherently dangerous areas that may expose individuals to hazards such as falling, shearing, crushing, and electrical shock.

Indiana law mandates that the Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission (the “Commission”) adopt regulations for the administration and enforcement of the Elevator Safety Regulation. The Commission adopt or amend various elevator safety standards, including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (“ASME”) A17.1 – Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators. Accordingly, the Commission has – via regulation – adopted ASME A17.1 – 2007.

The Code defines “elevator personnel” as individuals who have been trained in the construction, maintenance, repair, inspection, or testing of elevator equipment [ASME A17.1-2007 Requirement 1.3]. The Code makes clear that elevator pits and hoistways should only be accessible to licensed elevator personnel. Namely, the Code states that elevator pits shall be accessible only to elevator personnel [ASME A17.1-2007 Requirement 2.2.4.4], top-of-elevator car inspection operation shall be used only by elevator personnel [ASME A17.1-2007 Requirement 2.26.1.4.1(e) and 2.26.1.4.2], and keys to pit access doors and hoistway access doors are classified as Security Group 1 that are restricted to use by elevator personnel [ASME A17.1-2007 Requirement 8.1.2(a) and 8.1.2(b)].

Consequently, in light of the existing statutory and regulatory requirements, and for the safety concerns identified above, the Office of the Indiana State Fire Marshal reminds all involved parties that only elevator personnel licensed by the State of Indiana (or those accompanied by a licensed and trained elevator personnel) are permitted to access elevator pits and hoistways. Elevator pits and hoistways should not be accessed without the presence of a person licensed as elevator personnel.

Regulated Lift Device Section

Division of Fire & Building Safety
Indiana Department of Homeland Security
302 W. Washington Street, Room E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204