



CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal Single-Exit Stair Legislative Report Charter

PURPOSE

The Single-Exit Stair Task Group will provide recommendations to the State Fire Marshal for consideration for a report to specified legislative committees and to the California Building Standards Commission by January 1, 2026. The recommendations will address fire and life safety or emergency activities in single-exit, single-stairway apartment houses with more than 2 dwelling units in buildings above 3 stories.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Task Group is being formed pursuant to Assembly Bill 835 (Chapter 345, Statutes of 2023) to advise the State Fire Marshal on research and recommendations for apartment houses with more than 2 dwelling units in buildings above 3 stories. This Task Group shall report to the California State Board of Fire Services. **Goal:**

To provide solutions to enable the State Fire Marshal to make recommendations on understanding the fire and life safety or emergency activities in buildings with 2 or more dwelling units above 3 stories in height.

Objectives:

- Provide solutions to enable the State Fire Marshal to make recommendations on understanding the impacts of a single-exit stair in buildings with 2 or more dwelling units above 3 stories on or before January 1, 2026.
- Provide a discussion on how single-exit stairs can affect the risk to residents, fire service operations, and the housing inventory.
- Provide an evaluation of the cost impacts of fire mitigation building features.
- Review and list other jurisdictions' adopted codes that allow the single-exit stair.
- Review and provide a list of research, academia, and industry perspectives.
- Provide a list of identified barriers to adopting and implementing the single-exit stair concept.



TASK GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Task Group shall be open to interested parties as well as the following:

- The State Fire Marshal or their designee
- The Executive Director of the Building Standards Commission or their designee
- The Director of Housing and Community Development or their designee
- A representative of the Center for Building in North America
- A large city or county fire chief to be nominated by the California Fire Chiefs Association
- A rural fire chief to be nominated by the Fire Districts Association of California
- A fire prevention officer to be nominated by the California Fire Prevention Officers Association
- A fire marshal to be nominated by the California Fire Chiefs Association.
- A representative to be nominated by the California Professional Firefighters
- A representative of California YIMBY
- A representative of the California Building Industry Association
- A representative of the California Building Officials Association
- A large urban city representative to be nominated by the League of California Cities
- A rural county representative to be nominated by the Rural Counties Representatives of California
- A large county representative to be nominated by the California State Association of Counties

The State Fire Marshal may decide to add any other appropriate stakeholders with the consultation of the State Board of Fire Services. The Task Group chairperson shall be the State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's designee. A vice chairperson may be appointed by the State Fire Marshal.

The members of the Task Group shall serve without compensation.

MEETINGS

- Schedule
 - The Committee shall meet on the first Tuesday of each month. If the meeting lands on a holiday, the Task Group shall postpone and meet the following Tuesday.
- Location
 - Meetings shall be regularly scheduled virtually
 - Meetings will not be canceled without cause



SINGLE-EXIT STAIR TASK GROUP (AB 835 2023-24)

To ensure consistency and transparency, the following shall be adhered to:

- An approved, published agenda,
- Meeting minutes,
- Voting requirements (including requests for roll call voting).

Rules for recognition and timelines for debate will be suspended unless enacted explicitly by the membership.

Meetings may be rescheduled if the Task Group does not have at least 25 percent attendance of the listed members.

A simple majority of the entire voting membership will pass a motion.

All voting and non-voting members may submit informational, discussion, and/or action items for the agenda before the meeting. Agenda items will take precedence, and non-agenda items may be transacted upon if time permits.

TASK GROUP PROTOCOL

- The chairperson has the authority to set time limits on any agenda item

PROCESS

- The Code Development and Analysis Division will provide administrative support to the Task Group
- Agenda items should be submitted to the Task Group coordinator a minimum of 15-days before the scheduled meeting date
- Minutes will be taken at each meeting that captures the essence and actions of the meeting
 - Minutes will be posted on the Office of the State Fire Marshal website

QUORUM

At least 25 percent attendance of the listed members.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHAIR

- Interpretation and decisions are the purview of the chair