



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

PURPOSE

The Single-Exit Stair Work Group will provide recommendations to the State Fire Marshal for a report to specified legislative committees and the California Building Standards Commission to be submitted 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 up to the high-rise limit as established by the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, California Building Standards Code.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Work 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 up to the high-rise limit as established by the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, California Building Standards Code. This Work 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 up to the high-rise limit as established by the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, California Building Standards Code.

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 potential benefits potentially associated with single-stair multifamily design such as cost, design flexibility to utilize constrained urban properties, density, and unit mix
- Review and list other jurisdictions' adopted codes that allow the single-exit stair.
- Review and provide a list of research, academia, and industry perspectives.



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- Provide a list of identified barriers to adopting and implementing the single-exit stair concept.
- Provide recommendations or solutions for existing buildings

WORK GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Work 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
- A representative from California State University
- A representative from the University of California

The State Fire Marshal may decide to add any other appropriate stakeholders in consultation with the State Board of Fire Services. The Work Group chairperson shall be the State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's designee. The State Fire Marshal may appoint a vice-chairperson.

The members of the Work Group shall serve without compensation.



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MEETINGS

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

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 Work Group does not have at least 50% plus 1 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.

To the maximum extent possible, even though not required by law, the Work Group shall follow the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. This includes but is not limited to, published notices and agendas, meetings open to the public, and voting on agenda items that require it.

WORK 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 Work Group
- Agenda items should be submitted to the Work Group coordinator a minimum of 15 days before the scheduled meeting date



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- 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

A simple majority (50% plus 1) of the committee membership shall be a quorum.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHAIR

- Interpretation and decisions are the purview of the chair