



# Seattle Fire Department FIRE PREVENTION ALERT

## **FIRE PREVENTION ALERT #2011-01**

**ISSUE DATE: December 12, 2011**

**SUBJECT: Revision of Luminous Egress Path Markings in Existing High-Rise Buildings**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Engineering Plan Review, 206-386-1455**

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The 2009 Seattle Fire Code (effective date October 30, 2010) contains provisions in Sections 4604, specifically 4604.1, which required existing buildings to comply with 4604.1.1 through 4604.23. Paragraph 4604.1 also contained an exception from these retroactive requirements for buildings conforming to the building code under which they were built. The exception, however, did not include the requirements of 4604.22 *Stairway Floor Number Signs* and 4604.23 *Egress Path Markings*.

On November 18, 2011 the State Building Code Council took an emergency action to revise the Washington State amendments to the 2009 International Fire Code. This action effectively repealed the requirements pertaining to retrofitting floor identification signs and photo luminescent or self-luminous exit path markings in exit enclosures in existing high-rise buildings. The effective date of this action was December 1, 2011.

This means that, for existing high-rise buildings, owners are no longer required to install the self-luminous markings or retrofit the floor identification signs pending the upcoming 2012 code review process for Permanent Rulemaking. The emergency rule will provide time for all of the issues and impacts to be fully vetted while delaying potential economic impacts on building owners. It also allows stakeholder groups to fully examine the impacts of the current requirements on building owners and to address cost and safety concerns.

Questions pertaining to this action may be directed to the Senior Fire Protection Engineer, Russ Byrd, by email to [russ.byrd@seattle.gov](mailto:russ.byrd@seattle.gov) or by phone at 206-386-1455.