



**DIVISION OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING  
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
*Department of Permits and Inspections*

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**Memorandum  
Emergency Lighting Requirements**

To: Design Professionals, Builders, and Licensed Electricians

From: Ashlye Bonomo, Director, Department of Permits and Inspections *AB*

Through: Gary Hessong, Deputy Division Director, Division of Planning and Permitting *CH*

Date: June 1, 2024

RE: To clarify emergency lighting requirements for commercial buildings

This memo is to inform the public that for all new permit applications submitted beginning August 1, 2024, Frederick County Permits and Inspections will begin enforcing the requirement for an exterior emergency light, outside, adjacent to exit doors.

Article 1008.3 of the International Building Code requires emergency lights in buildings that are required to have two or more exits. NFPA 101 has similar requirements in article 7.9.

In addition to requiring emergency lights inside buildings in aisles and corridors, an emergency light is also required outside- adjacent to exit doors. Exterior emergency lights will be required adjacent to exit doors on new commercial buildings and tenant fit-outs.

One way to meet this requirement is by installing an LED remote head outside that is powered from the exit sign that is installed directly inside, over the door.

Please be sure to include emergency lighting locations on commercial plans when submitting for review.

If you have any questions regarding the review or inspection process, please contact staff.

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