



# Five Minutes to **Fire Safety**

## HEALTHCARE EDITION

### Topic: Doors With 15-Second Delay

The balance of security and egress is one of the hardest things to achieve in fire safety, whether working with jails, schools, or healthcare facilities. One of the specific challenges for healthcare facilities is how to prevent elopements through outside exits while preserving the use and function of required exits.

If your facility has a door that has delayed egress, there are a few building requirements. First, your building must be fully sprinklered or must have a complete, supervised smoke detection system. You must also have emergency lights provided at these delayed egress doors. In addition, there can only be one delay device along any path of egress. If, in order to exit the building, you have to go through two doors with delayed egress, that is not acceptable.

Next, there are requirements for the door operation itself. There must be some unlocking means provided at the door - either a keypad or an unlocking device. The locking device must automatically release upon activation of the fire alarm system, sprinkler system, and upon loss of building power. Once the door is unlocked, it can only be relocked by manual means at the door.

There must also be a sign posted at door indicating that it's a delayed egress device. Typically, the sign will read: "PUSH UNTIL ALARM SOUNDS. DOOR CAN BE OPENED IN 15 SECONDS"

This is the first in a series of "Five Minutes to Fire Safety" issues on this challenging topic. Stay tuned - the next issue will discuss doors with keypads.



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