

Firesafety Findings, USDA Space Alterations Project,
Building 103, Federal Center, 4300 Goodfellow, St. Louis, MO

At the agency's request, a fire protection and life safety survey was conducted June 2, 2004. Comments are: the number of exits serving the USDA space are adequate, and there are no excessive travel distances from any point in the space. Exit signs and emergency lighting are also adequate. The building fire alarm system has been modified for the new space and has been successfully tested. The building sprinkler system now protects the new area.

The following items are recommended for corrective action, but the currently arrangement would not prevent the space from being occupied:

1. The existing building stairwells space have handrails on only one side. This is acceptable for existing stairwells less than 44 inches wide, but all stairwells should be upgraded as funds are available. Provide handrails on both sides of building stairwells in accordance with the Life Safety Code, NFPA 101, 7.2.4.
2. Occupants using the southwest exit stairwell at Col. J39 must step down at the exterior of the building. This is acceptable for existing stairwells but a permanent landing outside the stairwell at the same level as the landing inside the stairwell should be provided as funds are available. The landing should extend out from the building at least three feet.
3. The new sprinkler system inspector's test connection installed in the Second Floor mechanical chase at Col. H35.5 is not piped to drain. Pipe the inspector's test connection to the sanitary sewer.
4. Provide a smooth transition on the Second Floor along Col. Line 31.5 between the new floor and the existing floor in the corridor to eliminate tripping hazards between the new and old floor surfaces.