




**City of Milpitas
Building and Safety Department**

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**COMMON PATH OF TRAVEL
FROM SECOND FLOOR**

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|---|------------------|
| Policy: | BDP-BLG21 |
| Effective Date: | 7/1/2008 |
| Proposed by: | TUCC |
| Last Reviewed/ Revised: | 5/10/17 |
| Revised by: | BYC |
| Approved By: Gary King Acting Chief Building Official  | |

CODE REFERENCES:

2016 CBC Sections 202, 1006.2.1 and 1017.1.

ISSUES:

- 1) How is the common path of egress travel from a second floor in existing two story buildings determined when the definition of this distance contains the phrase: *where the occupants have separate access to two exits or exit access doorways*.
- 2) In existing two story office buildings, open stairways commonly provide egress to the first floor level. Because open stairs are NOT considered an exit, it appears that the common path of travel for occupants on the second floor must extend to the first floor level (level of exit discharge) before two separate and distinct paths of egress travel to two “exits” are available. This distance can easily exceed 100 feet in many office building.

POLICY:

2016 CBC Section 1006.2.1 **Common path of egress travel** - On the second floor level of two-story buildings, once an occupant enters a circulation corridor or hallway that provides two separate directions of travel to two properly separated existing stairs, then that is the point at which the common path of travel has ended. One need not reach the ground floor level to achieve the intent of having two separate and distinct paths of egress travel if the existing stairs are properly separated.