



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

711 Vine St, Kelso WA 98626

June 28, 2016

Mr. William Frere
DES Program Director
1500 Jefferson St SE
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Consultation Visit # 506994042

Dear Mr. Frere:

I'm writing you in regards to a limited safety consultation, visit number 506994042, performed by John Taurman at the Capitol Dome on September 22, 2015. You specifically had questions in regards to item six of this report, which addresses exit routes. Item number six cited WAC 296-800-31005; which states:

"You must:

*Provide a minimum of two exits routes to provide different ways for employees to leave the workplace safely during an emergency (at least two of the exit routes must be remote from one another so employees can safely exit if one exit route becomes blocked or unavailable).

*Provide an adequate number (at least two) of exit routes, considering the kind, number, location and capacity, appropriate to each building according to the following conditions:

- Number of employees
- Size of building
- Arrangement of workplace
- Building occupancy"

Consultation is aware that the dome has been restricted to maintenance staff only and that access to this area is limited. The code would normally take this into consideration with the following note:

"Note: A single exit route is permitted where the number of employees, the size of the building, its occupancy, or the arrangement of the workplace indicates that a single exit will allow all employees to exit safely during an emergency. Other means of escape, such as fire exits or accessible windows, should be available where only one exit route is provided."



We are asking DES to explore the possibility of another “means of escape” due to the following:

- In the “Other Findings and Recommendations” section of the report, John Taurman provides a Federal OSHA letter of interpretation that requires stairs that are part of an exit route be a minimum of 28 inches wide. Our measurements show that the spiral staircase to be between 16 inches and 27 inches wide. Therefore, the spiral staircase doesn’t meet the minimum requirements of an exit route set forth by Federal OSHA.
- Our other concern is an e-mail from Robert Bradley of the Olympia Fire Department to Jordan Friedberg of DES on September 17, 2015. Mr. Bradley states:

“Jordan,

The Olympia Fire Department does not recommend opening up the Legislative Building Dome for access to anyone other than maintenance personnel. The stairway is very narrow, steep, and uneven creating a higher chance for falls. Additionally, if someone were to have a serious medical event such as a heart attack, it would be difficult to access the patient in a **timely manner**.

For the reasons stated above, we respectfully request that you do not open the Dome for access.

Rob Bradley
Asst. Chief/Fire Marshal
Olympia Fire Department
360.753.8458”

Consultation performed a prior consultation in the capitol dome on March 5, 2007 and identified a confined space within the dome. The confined space standard WAC 296-809-50014 (1)(a)(i) states: “Respond to a rescue call in a **timely manner**.”

The general industry first aid standard WAC 296-800-15005 states: “Make sure that first aid-trained personnel are available to provide quick and effective first aid.”

It is Consultation’s belief that an ill or injured DES employee couldn’t be accessed in a timely manner, nor do we believe that an ill or injured employee could be evacuated down the spiral staircase timely to receive proper medical attention. It is also our belief that would be rescuers could also be at risk due to the narrow and steep staircase. We therefore recommend that DES explore options to rescue potentially ill or injured employees through an alternative method, such as high angle rescue or a basket than can be lowered, other than the spiral staircase that would meet the requirements above.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Lawrence".

Jim Lawrence
DOSH Region 4 Consultation Manager
711 Vine St.
Kelso, WA

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