

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Alcohol and
Gambling
Enforcement

Bureau of
Criminal
Apprehension

Driver
and Vehicle
Services

Emergency
Communication
Networks

Homeland
Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Pipeline Safety

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire
Marshal



State Fire Marshal

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 145 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5145

Phone: 651-201-7200 • Fax: 651-215-0525 • TTY: 651-282-6555

www.dps.state.mn.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 25, 2020

TO: Senator Karla Bigham
Senator Jeff Howe

FROM: Jon Nisja, Fire Safety Supervisor

SUBJECT: Wedding Venues

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) was requested to conduct surveys and inspections of some wedding venues. The SFMD has identified 128 of these venues although new ones are identified weekly.

Surveys were mailed to the venues in late-2019 along with information on how to protect their facility against fire and life safety issues.

As of this writing, seven inspections have been conducted and additional inspections have been scheduled in the upcoming weeks. Of the seven facilities inspected, 69 fire and life safety deficiencies have been identified (an average of ten per facility).

Many of these deficiencies relate to egress and the ability for occupants to be able to safely identify and use the exit system. These are critical life safety issues.

On the following pages you will find the following:

- Breakdown of the deficiencies found
- Photos of the conditions found

We will update this information as more inspections take place.

**Wedding & Event Center
Fire and Life Safety Deficiencies Observed
February, 2020**

Description of Deficiency:	Type of Violation:	No. of Facilities
Lack of panic hardware on exit doors (impairs occupants' ability to leave the facility in an emergency when doors are locked)	Life safety – egress	7
Lack of emergency egress illumination (building or portion of the building did not have emergency lighting to assist occupants in finding exits in the event of a power failure)	Life safety – egress	7
Occupant loads not posted or maintained (determines how many people can safely occupy the space)	Life safety – egress	6
Lack of EXIT signs (identify exit doors so occupants can safely egress in an emergency)	Life safety – egress	6
Improper door swing (doors do not swing in the direction of egress so people can open the door easily)	Life safety – egress	5
Improper or excessive extension cord use (overloaded or damaged cords are a possible ignition source)	Ignition risk	4
Insufficient number or type of fire extinguishers	Fire suppression	4
Improper guards and handrails (guards prevent falls from open stairs and handrails assist persons with negotiating stairs)	Life safety – egress	4
Miscellaneous ignition sources (open electrical boxes, storage too close to heat sources, temporary wiring or lighting, etc.)	Ignition risk	4
No fire alarm system present (provides early warning of dangerous conditions)	Detection and warning of fire conditions	3
Miscellaneous egress issues (exit paths blocked, obstructed or impaired)	Life safety – egress	3

The remaining items cited related to hazardous materials storage inside the building, improper interior finishes, fire separations not installed or maintained, sprinkler protection required, alarm monitoring of the sprinkler system required, alarm / detection missing, etc.

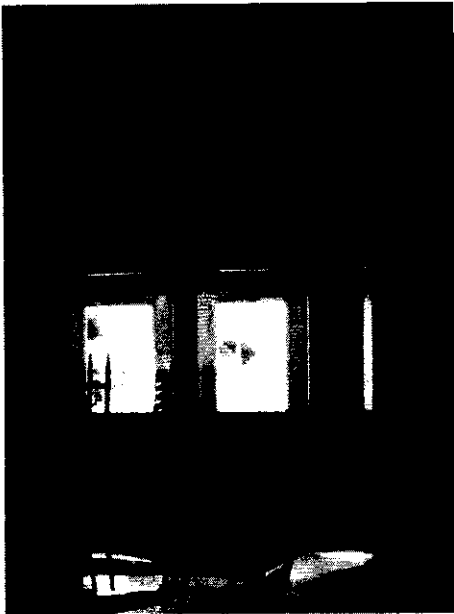


Photo 1 – Exit door; no EXIT signs, no panic hardware on doors

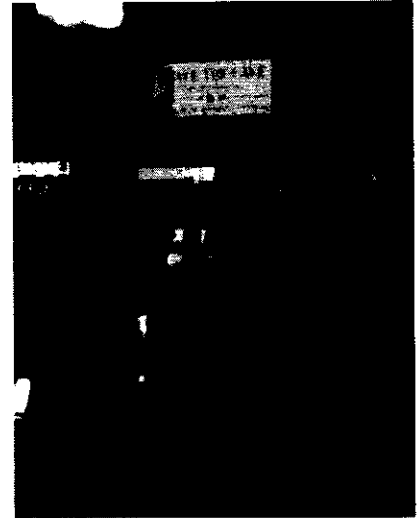


Photo 2 – Sliding door; special knowledge to operate. Should be side-hinged, swinging door

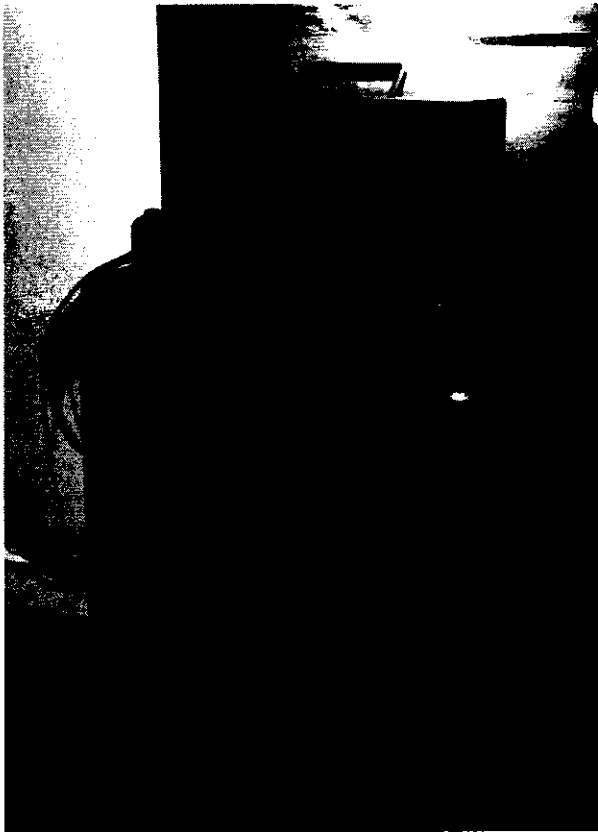


Photo 3 – Three large LP-Gas (Propane) cylinders being storage inside the building

Photo 4 – Exit doors – no EXIT signs, no emergency lighting, no panic hardware

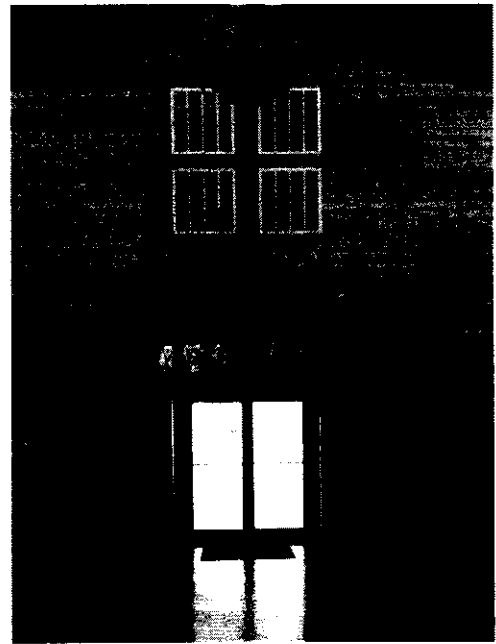


Photo 5 – Exit door – improper swing (swings inward, no EXIT sign)



Photo 6 – Improper guardrails and handrails on stair

