

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Accessible Means of Egress:** A continuous and unobstructed way of egress travel from any accessible point in a building or facility to a public way.

**Ambulatory:** An individual who has the ability to move from place to place, without assistance, to an area of refuge/safety.

**Ambulatory Care Facility:** Buildings or portions thereof used to provide medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing or similar care on a less-than 24-hour basis to persons who are rendered incapable of self-preservation by the services provided.

**Area of Refuge:** Area where persons unable to evacuate can remain temporarily to await instructions or assistance during emergency evacuation.

**Assembly Area:** A location that has been identified as a meeting area in the event of an emergency.

**Assisted Living Facilities:** Buildings, structures, or portions thereof that have more than 16 persons, excluding staff, who reside on a 24-hour basis in a supervised environment and receive custodial care. All persons receiving custodial care who, without any assistance, or who require limited verbal or physical assistance, are capable of responding to an emergency situation to complete building evacuation.

**Clinic, Outpatient:** Buildings or portions thereof used to provide medical care on a less-than-24-hour basis to persons who are not rendered incapable of self-preservation by the services provided.

**Complete Evacuation:** Evacuation of all staff and residents to a selected assembly point outdoors.

**Defend-in-Place:** A strategic process where victims are protected from fire without relocation. *Example:* Non-ambulatory residents may defend-in-place due to their inability to safely evacuate to an area of refuge or safety.

**Evacuation Drill:** An exercise performed to train and evaluate staff and occupants in their effectiveness to follow emergency evacuation procedures.

**Fire Barrier:** A rated wall or partition that is installed from the floor to the underside of a floor, or the roof above to subdivide a floor area designed to limit the spread of fire and smoke. The wall/partition has a fire resistance rating and may or may not be designed to prevent movement of smoke. Fire barriers are **not** fire walls.

**Fire Code Official:** The fire chief or other designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of the code, or a rule authorized representative.

**Fire Rated Assembly:** A window, door or wall that is constructed and tested in a manner to resist the passage of fire and smoke for a specified period of time, i.e., a 2-hour fire rated door or wall, automatic closing doors, etc.

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Fire Watch:** A temporary measure intended to ensure continuous and systematic surveillance of a building or portion thereof by one or more qualified individuals for the purposes of identifying and controlling fire hazards, detecting early signs of unwanted fire, raising an alarm of fire and notifying the fire department.

**Horizontal Exit:** An exit component consisting of fire-resistance-rated construction and operating protectives intended to compartmentalize portions of a building thereby creating refuge areas that can afford safety from fire and smoke from the area of fire origin.

**Hospitals and Psychiatric Hospitals:** Facilities that provide care of treatment for the medical, psychiatric, obstetrical, or surgical treatment of inpatient care recipients that are incapable of self-preservation.

**Incapable of Self-Preservation:** Persons who, because of age, physical limitations, mental limitations, chemical dependency or medical treatment, cannot respond as an individual to an emergency situation.

**Lockdown:** An emergency situation requiring that the occupants be sheltered and secured in place within a building when normal evacuation would put occupants at risk.

**Memory Care Facility:** Buildings and structures used for medical care on a 24-hour basis for more than five persons who are not capable of self-preservation.

**Non-Ambulatory:** NOT able to move from place to place.

**Nursing Homes:** Facilities that provide care, including both intermediate care facilities and skilled nursing facilities, where any of the persons are incapable of self-preservation.

**Resident Accountability Form:** Signed verification form stating residents have read and understand the facility's evacuation and emergency guide. Forms should be kept on file by the facility's responsible agent or owner.

**Special Needs Occupant:** A patron, employee, student, resident or tenant that has unique or unusual needs regarding their mobility capacity. These special needs can include, but are not limited to, the physically disabled, hearing impaired, visually impaired or mentally impaired.

**Staged Evacuation:** A systematic approach where occupants are evacuated away from the fire's area of origin and moved as necessary according to the fire plan. If deemed necessary, a full evacuation leading to an area of safety outside of the building may occur.

**For More Information:**

Colorado Springs Fire Department  
Community Education & Outreach Unit  
[coloradosprings.gov/carelink](http://coloradosprings.gov/carelink)