

**STATE OF OREGON  
BUILDING CODES DIVISION**

**STATEWIDE INTERPRETATION**

**No. 1003.2.9.2**

**OREGON STRUCTURAL SPECIALTY CODE**

- SUBJECT:** Extent of Emergency Power for Means of Egress Illumination
- CODE SECTION:** Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) Section 1003.2.9.2
- CODE EDITION:** 1998 Edition with October 1, 2001 amendments
- QUESTION:** OSSC section 1001.1 states that the “means of egress” terminates at the public way. OSSC 1003.2.9.2 stipulates that within the occupancies and occupant loads noted, the power supply for the “means of egress” illumination must be provided with an automatic back-up “emergency system”. As such, must all of the lighting providing egress illumination to the public way, be provided with automatic back-up emergency systems (i.e., lighting outside of the building, parking lots)?
- ANSWER:** Where approved by the Building Official, the exception in OSSC 1006.1 states that areas of “safe dispersal” (at least 50 feet from the building) may be used in lieu of continuing the “means of egress” to the public way. Compliant with the benchmark established in 1006.1, required automatic emergency power systems for exit illumination should be maintained to at least the 50 foot threshold. Various exterior illumination devices mounted on buildings may be capable of providing the minimum lighting levels.
- Where an “area of safe dispersal” or its equivalent cannot be established, automatic emergency power systems should be maintained to the public way.