

MAKE SURE YOUR BUSINESS PROVIDES AN "EXIT STRATEGY"

The State Fire Marshal's Office recently conducted a survey of 189 Texas nightclubs. It found that more than 96% of these businesses had means of egress violations, meaning their exits were blocked, locked, and/or poorly marked. With thousands of similar nightclubs, bars, and dancehalls throughout Texas, it is essential that proprietors do their part to help run safe businesses. The following are ways you can conduct a proactive safety review of your property:

- 1. Invite a fire safety professional to help identify potential problems.**
- 2. Be diligent about enforcing capacity limitations.**
- 3. Employees should always watch for and correct fire safety hazards.**
- 4. Ensure all employees know how to conduct safe evacuations in case of fire.**

Particulars: Important things to look for

- **Exits:** Are there a sufficient number of exits?
- **Doors:** Are they blocked or locked? Do the doors swing in the direction of travel?
- **Emergency lighting:** Does emergency lighting work?
- **Exit marking:** Are exits clearly marked?
- **Kitchen areas:** Are kitchen hood protection systems working?
- **Interior finish:** Are walls and ceiling finishes fire resistive? Are decorations fire resistive?
- **Alarms and sprinklers:** If present, do they work?
- **Fire extinguishers:** Are they present and charged?

Spending a few minutes going through this checklist can help prevent loss of human life and help safeguard against costly property damage and legal costs.

