

1026.3 Open side. *Exterior exit ramps and stairways* serving as an element of a required *means of egress* shall be open on at least one side. An open side shall have a minimum of 35 square feet (3.3 m²) of aggregate open area adjacent to each floor level and the level of each intermediate landing. The required open area shall be located not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) above the adjacent floor or landing level.

1026.4 Side yards. The open areas adjoining *exterior exit ramps or stairways* shall be either *yards, courts or public ways*; the remaining sides are permitted to be enclosed by the *exterior walls* of the building.

1026.5 Location. *Exterior exit ramps and stairways* shall be located in accordance with Section 1027.3.

1026.6 Exterior ramps and stairway protection. *Exterior exit ramps and stairways* shall be separated from the interior of the building as required in Section 1022.1. Openings shall be limited to those necessary for egress from normally occupied spaces.

Exceptions:

1. Separation from the interior of the building is not required for occupancies, other than those in Group R-1 or R-2, in buildings that are no more than two stories above *grade plane* where a *level of exit discharge* serving such occupancies is the *first story above grade plane*.
2. Separation from the interior of the building is not required where the *exterior ramp or stairway* is served by an *exterior ramp* or balcony that connects two remote *exterior stairways* or other *approved exits*, with a perimeter that is not less than 50 percent open. To be considered open, the opening shall be a minimum of 50 percent of the height of the enclosing wall, with the top of the openings no less than 7 feet (2134 mm) above the top of the balcony.
3. Separation from the interior of the building is not required for an *exterior ramp or stairway* located in a building or structure that is permitted to have unenclosed *interior stairways* in accordance with Section 1022.1.
4. Separation from the interior of the building is not required for *exterior ramps or stairways* connected to open-ended *corridors*, provided that Items 4.1 through 4.4 are met:
 - 4.1. The building, including *corridors, ramps and stairs*, shall be equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
 - 4.2. The open-ended *corridors* comply with Section 1018.
 - 4.3. The open-ended *corridors* are connected on each end to an *exterior exit ramp or stairway* complying with Section 1026.
 - 4.4. At any location in an open-ended *corridor* where a change of direction exceeding 45 degrees (0.79 rad) occurs, a clear opening of not less than 35 square feet (3.3 m²) or an *exterior ramp or stairway* shall be provided. Where clear openings are provided, they shall be located so as to minimize the accumulation of smoke or toxic gases.

SECTION 1027 EXIT DISCHARGE

1027.1 General. *Exits* shall discharge directly to the exterior of the building. The *exit*