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Thoughtful Inquiry, Service,
Leadership and Care*

New International Fire Code for Crowd Control Effective July 2010

In compliance with the IRC, effective July 2010, the Pierce County Fire Marshall requires that all events exceeding 1,000 people are staffed with certain number of people who are trained to control crowds in emergencies.

The intent is to assist those that are unfamiliar with the building to exit in an emergency or to activate calls to emergency personnel (calling 911, etc).

What does that mean for your event?
When headcounts are 1,001 or more, one crowd controller for every 250 people must be at the event. If crowds thin, the crowd controllers can be excused according to headcount.

> Examples
> > 4 crowd controllers for a crowd of 1,001
> > 6 crowd controllers for 1,500 people
> > 8 crowd controllers for 2,000 people

Who can be a crowd controller?
A crowd controller can be a volunteer or paid staff member who will be able to:
- activate fire and/or police resources for problems by calling 911 or contacting the emergency personnel that are on-site
- direct occupants to the nearest safe exits and designated assembly areas in evacuation situations
- help crowds to take the appropriate action in case of threat of violence or harm (i.e., lock down or earthquake)

Where can I obtain crowd controller staff?
You can provide your own crowd controllers. It is your responsibility to prepare your crowd controllers with a pre-event briefing that includes:
- a plan for exiting crowds in an emergency
- orientation to facilities and outside assembly locations
- review of evacuation route maps (obtain from PLU staff in advance; maps are also posted in facilities)
- how the controllers should contact emergency personnel
- how controllers should communicate to you in an emergency
- how controllers should instruct the crowds to exit and act in an emergency

The Fire Marshall often drops into scheduled events to ensure that crowd control and other fire marshall regulations are being followed.

What if I don't have crowd Controllers?
We can provide crowd control personnel for you who are trained and wearing a staff shirt for easy identification. This service must be requested in advance by contacting the conferences and events manager. The cost will be an hourly rate per staff person.
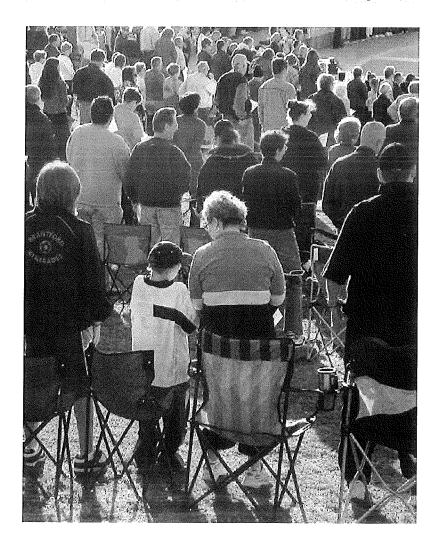
403.3

Crowd Manager

CHANGE TYPE. Addition

CHANGE SUMMARY. A crowd manager is now required for events where more than 1,000 persons congregate.

2009 CODE: 403.3 Crowd Manager. Trained crowd managers shall be provided for facilities or events where more than 1,000 persons congregate. The minimum number of crowd managers shall be established as a ratio of one crowd manager to every 250 persons. Where approved by the fire code official, the ratio of crowd managers shall be permitted to be reduced where the facility is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system or based upon the nature of the event.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE. For Group A occupancies that are designed to accommodate large occupant loads, Section 403.3 now requires the

assignment of individuals as crowd managers. This requirement is applicable to indoor or outdoor events where the total number of occupants or attendees is greater than 1,000. When an event or venue has more than 1,000 persons in congregation, Section 403.3 specifies that 1 crowd manager be provided for each 250 individuals.

The code official is authorized under the requirements in Section 403.3 to reduce the ratio of crowd managers per occupants when the building is protected by an automatic sprinkler system or when the nature of the event does not warrant the application of the crowd manager requirement.

This code change does not specify the responsibilities for a crowd manager and what actions the individual should take in the event of a fire or natural or technological emergency at the event. Also, the intent of this provision is not to require the hiring of dedicated staff to fulfill this requirement. Employees who are properly trained in understanding the occupancy's fire safety plan can serve as crowd managers.