City of Casa Grande
Fire Department

Scott R. Miller, Fire Chief

April 10, 2020

FROM: MICHAEL WOBSER, FIRE MARSHAL

TO: ALL RETAIL STORE MANAGERS

SUBJECT: RESTRICTING ENTRANCES/EXITS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

1. To remain open to the public and promote social distancing, businesses are creating non-traditional paths of travel for entering and exiting their stores. The Casa Grande Fire Marshal would like to provide the following guidance to ensure proper egress is not impaired and compliance with the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC).

   - **Entry into a building may be restricted or prohibited at any time. However, egress from any required exit shall never be diminished, obstructed, restricted or prohibited.**

   - **Physical barriers, such as shopping carts and merchandise displays shall not be arranged to prevent access to an exit or be placed in the exit discharge.**

   - **Exits may be marked as "Emergency Exit Only" but, may not be labeled, disguised, or made to look as though they are inoperable or not available in emergency situations.**

   - **To prevent entry the automatic opening function of powered sliding doors may be turned off so long as the door remains accessible, UNLOCKED, and available for use by manually opening the door.**

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2. To control the number of persons who enter a building, businesses may create queues on the exterior of the building so long as the queues do not block the required exit discharge or interfere with fire lanes. The use of traffic cones, tension barriers, and light objects may be used to direct patrons if they do not create a tripping hazard or give the appearance that any exit or fire protection feature is inaccessible or inoperable.

3. The above guidance is based on the 2018 International Fire Code as adopted by the City of Casa Grande. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. michael_wobser@casagrandeaz.gov or 520-421-8777.

Michael Wobser, Fire Marshal