

**BULLETIN RB06-037**

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

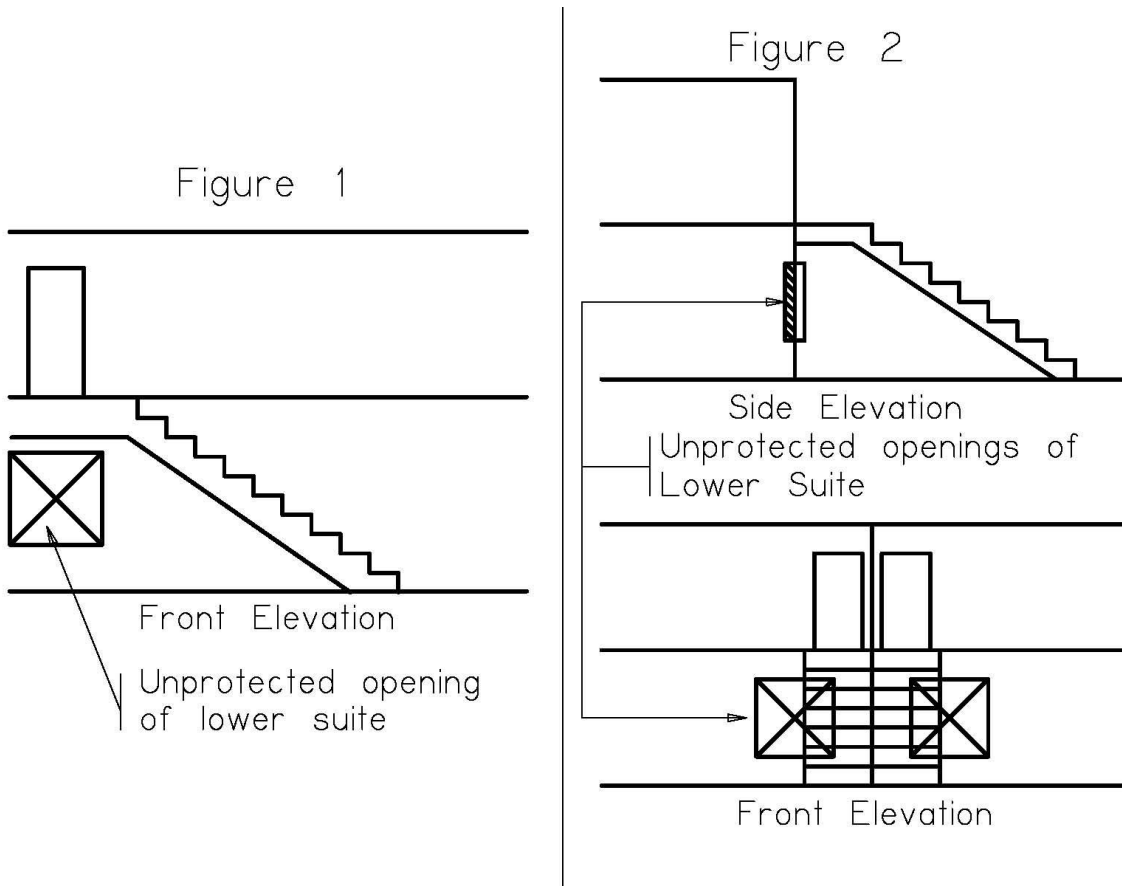
**EXTERIOR STAIRS PASSING ADJACENT TO UNPROTECTED OPENINGS IN ANOTHER FIRE COMPARTMENT**

**Reference: Sentence 9.9.4.4.(1)**

**Sentence 9.9.4.4.(1)** "Where an unenclosed exterior exit stair or ramp provides the only means of egress from a suite, and is exposed to fire from openings in the exterior walls of another fire compartment, the openings in the exterior walls of the *building* shall be protected with wired glass in fixed steel frames or glass block conforming to **Articles 9.10.13.5.** and **9.10.13.7.** when the openings in the exterior walls of the building are within 3m horizontally and less than 10m below or less than 5m above the exit stair or ramp.

**Question:**

The above Article obviously applies to exits as shown in **Fig. 1.** Does it also apply to those in **Fig. 2?**



**Commentary / Relevant Facts / Conclusion:**

Yes. Although the bottom end of the stair is a considerable distance away from unprotected openings in the fire compartment below, the upper end of the stair, and especially the top landing, are vulnerable to a fire breaking out from the lower windows.

In addition, occupants of the upper floor wanting to use the stairs in a fire may be intimidated by flames coming through this opening.

Chief Building Inspector

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Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Bulletins do not overrule the ABC 2014 nor constitute a relaxation of the Code. They serve to clarify the Code in areas where the latter is ambiguous or does not cover a specific topic. Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. These bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements of the Code.