

FIRE ESCAPE SAFETY

REQUIRED EXAMINATION

Exterior fire escapes are an important life-safety component of many older residential and commercial buildings. Under the New York State Fire Code, fire escape stairways and balconies are required to be periodically examined to verify their structural adequacy and safety.

Merritt Engineering provides comprehensive fire escape evaluations performed by experienced structural engineers to help building owners, property managers, and boards understand the condition of their existing systems and address potential concerns before they become larger problems.



Common Fire Escape Concerns

Many older fire escape systems experience deterioration due to:

- Long-term exposure to weather and moisture
- Corrosion of steel components
- Deteriorated connections and attachments
- Damaged stairs or platforms
- Previous repairs or modifications
- Deferred maintenance

What Does a Fire Escape Examination Include?

Merritt Engineering evaluates:

- ▶ Overall structural condition of fire escape stairways and balconies
- ▶ Structural steel components for corrosion, deterioration, and section loss
- ▶ Connections, fasteners, welds, and attachment points
- ▶ Platforms, stairs, railings, and supporting elements
- ▶ Evidence of movement, distress, or unsafe conditions
- ▶ Recommendations for repairs or further evaluation, when necessary

If Repairs Are Needed, Merritt Can Help

Unlike firms that only perform inspections, Merritt Engineering can support the entire process, including:

- ▶ Structural repair recommendations
- ▶ Engineering drawings and specifications
- ▶ Permit support
- ▶ Contractor coordination
- ▶ Construction administration and monitoring