



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE SERVICES

1500 Jefferson Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

September 30, 2015

Jordan Freidberg
Department of Enterprise Services
PO Box 41480
Olympia, WA 98504-1011

Re: Legislative Building Dome Access

Dear Mr. Freidberg:

Thank you for your inquiry about providing access to the Capitol Dome to people other than those whose duty it is to maintain the dome. We appreciate your interest in balancing the need for safety and security with the desire to share the beauty of our State Capitol. After our conversation, we researched the history of why access is limited and found no valid reason to lessen the restriction.

Both Labor and Industries and the Olympia Fire Department have assessed the space in the past. The staircase to the dome cupola is very steep and narrow, which makes it both a strenuous climb and a difficult avenue for rescue. Labor and Industries declared that this area is a "confined space" as defined in WAC 296-809-100, which means that although it is a large enough for an employee to enter and work, it has a restricted entry/exit and is not primarily designed for human occupancy. The assessment indicated access to the dome needs to be restricted to authorized confined-space trained staff to do necessary work in the dome.

In addition, the area meets the criteria for "permit-required confined space" as defined in WAC 296-809-20002 because the ability to self-rescue is impaired. As State Risk Manager, I was involved in discussions several years ago with the Olympia Fire Department. I recall that the Fire Department advised DES that they could not use a fireman's rescue technique in this space nor could they assist an injured party by using a gurney. They made it clear that they would not have a safe way to assist an injured party or worker down from this confined area.

Finally, other regulations also restrict access to this area. For example, WAC 296-809-20004 requires us to "take effective measures to prevent unauthorized employees from entering permit required confined spaces." WAC 296-307-26012 states that "spiral stairways are prohibited except for special limited use and secondary access when a conventional stairway is not practical."

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From a loss prevention and risk management perspective, the risks associated with permitting access to persons other than required, trained and authorized workers is not acceptable. I recommend maintaining restricted access to the confined space of the dome.

Please let me know if there is anything further I may provide.

Sincerely,



Lucy Isaki
State Risk Manager

cc: Bob Covington, Deputy Director, DES
Lynn McGuire, Deputy Director, DES
Farrell Presnell, Assistant Director, DES, CPRM



October 21, 2015

Department of Enterprise Services
Attn: Jordon Friedberg

Dear Mr. Friedberg:

Re: Capitol Dome Access Inspection

Thank you for including the City of Olympia Building and Safety Division as a participant in the Capitol dome access review meeting of October 14. As requested by DES, our evaluation included a physical and visual inspection of the floors above the 4th floor.

Based on my review, I have made the determination that the current policy restricting public access to the dome beyond the 4th floor should remain in place. The areas above the 4th floor are currently viewed by our building and safety division as maintenance and limited access confined space areas wherein only access by qualified personnel should be allowed for maintenance and repair of electrical, mechanical, plumbing or other building components and systems. The areas accessing these floors were not designed or constructed for public use and have very limited access features including narrow doors, a very small service elevator, narrow spiral stairways and narrow travel corridors which are poorly illuminated.

While less than code compliant measurements, clearances and lighting may be allowed for qualified personnel; they do not meet a level of compliance for general public use pursuant to building and fire code regulations. Additionally, these areas have no disabled access features allowing those with disabilities any level of appropriate accessibility.

Allowing access for other than maintenance, emergency or other qualified personnel above the 4th floor is not something I can support or recommended; doing so would place those people in a heightened state of hazard and would not be in the best interest of public safety as it relates to code compliance and minimum standards of safety.

If you should have further questions related to my determination; please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Todd Cunningham
Building Official

Recommendation via email to Jordan Friedberg:

From: Hatteberg, Jeffrey (WSP) <Jeffrey.Hatteberg@wsp.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 8:38 AM
To: Friedberg, Jordan (DES)
Subject: RE: Capitol Campus Contact Information

Jordan,

Thank you for the tour yesterday it was very informative. I also appreciate the opportunity to voice WSP's concerns about the security and public vulnerability to allow public access to the Leg Building catacombs, upper dome, and cupola. We recommend no change in the current policy regarding these particular areas.

Thank you,

Sergeant Jeff Hatteberg
Executive Services Section
Capitol Campus Detachment
(360) 596-3992 Office
(360) 239-0641 Cell
Jeffrey.hatteberg@wsp.wa.gov

From: Robert Bradley <rbradley@ci.olympia.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:09 AM
To: Friedberg, Jordan (DES); James Young
Cc: Boyer, Dave
Subject: RE: Dome Access Update

Jordan,

The Olympia Fire Department does not recommend opening up the Legislative Building Dome for access to anyone other than maintenance personnel. The stairway is very narrow, steep, and uneven creating a higher chance for falls. Additionally, if someone were to have a serious medical event such as a heart attack, it would be difficult to access the patient in a timely manner.

For the reasons stated above, we respectfully request that you do not open the Dome for access.

Rob Bradley
Asst. Chief/Fire Marshal
Olympia Fire Department
360.753.8458