

FIRE PROTECTION

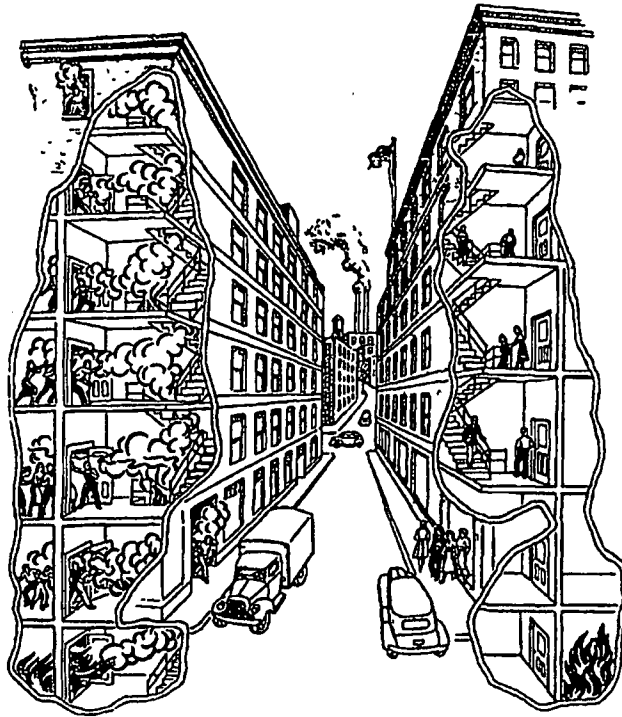


Fig 33-2. Exit stairway enclosures Doors on stairway enclosures at left are open, and basement fire quickly extends up stairs, spreading to upper floors. Doors on stairway at right are closed, confining fire to basement and permitting safe use of stairway

Courtesy National Fire Protection Association

"fire proof" is not recommended because it is misleading. No material is immune to the effects of fire of sufficient intensity and duration

Fire-resistive construction includes walls of masonry or reinforced concrete and non-combustible framing which is ordinarily of reinforced concrete or of structural iron or steel protected by fire-resistive materials.

Other structural members, such as floors, roofs, and interior partitions, that enclose stairways or other openings through floors, should also be designed to hold up for a definite period of fire resistance, adequate to eliminate structural weakening and col-

lapse. In order to reduce the fire hazard further, nonstructural members such as partitions, acoustical and insulating materials, window trim, window sash, shelving, lockers, and furniture should be of noncombustible or fire-resistant materials or materials that will not contribute to the spread of fire.

Although fire-resistive structures do not contribute fuel to a fire, a severe fire may occur in the combustible contents or interior decoration and finish materials that may more than offset the value of the non-burnable construction

Therefore, restricting the spread of fire