

Use the following questions to think about ways of increasing safety and security in your school. For more information, see *Mitigating Hazards in School Facilities*, <http://www.ncef.org/safeschools/index.cfm>.

Location _____ **Date** _____

■ Are stairs adequately located and designed to avoid congestion and accidents? For efficiently moving large numbers of students, additional sets of stairs may function more safely and effectively than very wide stairs. North Carolina requires single stair runs not to exceed 8 feet without a landing and a minimum stair width of 6 feet for grades 6 through 12.

Yes No Not applicable Further study
Note:

■ Are stairwells adequately lit, including exit signs?

Yes No Not applicable Further study
Note:

■ Do stair handrails and guardrails allow visual surveillance from either side of the stairs?

Yes No Not applicable Further study
Note:

■ Do stair handrail designs discourage sliding, climbing, or skateboarding?

Yes No Not applicable Further study
Note:

■ Are stair risers enclosed to prevent persons under the stairs from grabbing the ankles of others using the stairs, or are under-stair areas completely blocked off?

Yes No Not applicable Further study
Note:

■ Do windows or openings provide natural surveillance into stairwells located on outer walls?

Yes No Not applicable Further study
Note:

■ Where natural surveillance is inadequate, are enclosed stairwells electronically monitored?

Yes No Not applicable Further study
Note:

■ In high risk areas or areas subject to earthquakes or high winds, are stairwell materials and designs adequate to prevent their collapse and limit the extent of falling debris that would impede safe passage and reduce the flow of evacuees?

Yes No Not applicable Further study
Note:

Additional notes and comments:
