



# Building Department Newsletter

July 2009

## Special points of interest:

- Gable Truss Rake Overhang
- Mean of Egress

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 \* **CITY OFFICES** \*  
 \* **WILL BE** \*  
 \* **CLOSED:** \*  
 \* **FRIDAY, JULY** \*  
 \* **3, 2009, FOR** \*  
 \* **THE 4TH OF** \*  
 \* **JULY.** \*  
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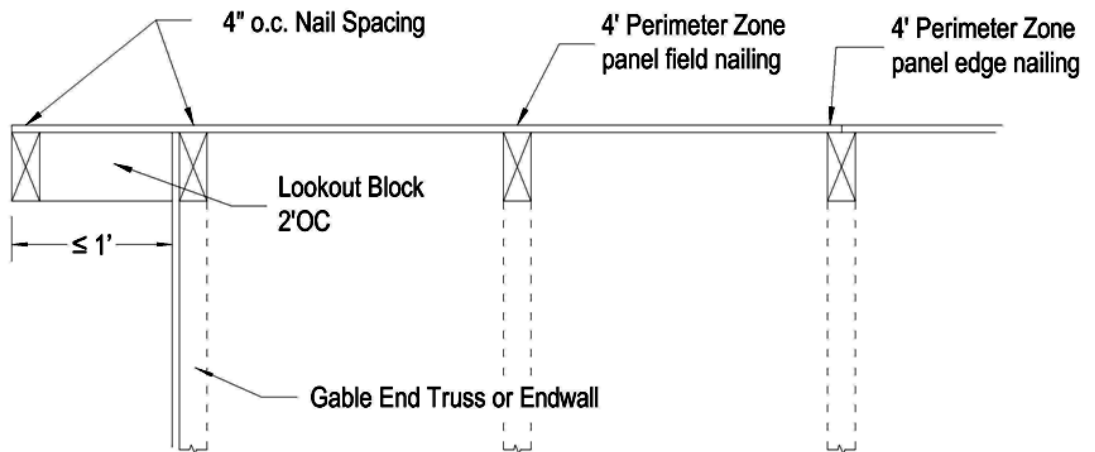
## Gable Truss Rake Overhang

Many of the newly constructed homes within our area with gable end eaves are constructed using a gable truss rake overhang. The International Residential Code (IRC) does not contain prescriptive provisions for the construction of a gable truss rake overhang. IRC Section R301.1.1 does allow the use of the Wood Frame Construction Manual (WFCM) for the structural design of one and two-family dwellings. The WFCM does contain a prescriptive method of constructing a rake overhang.

The WFCM defines rake overhang as “The horizontal projection of the roof measured from the outside face of the gable end wall to the outside edge of the roof.”

Gable truss rake overhangs of one foot or less may be constructed with lookout blocking. The illustration below indicates the lookout blocking should have a maximum spacing of 2 feet on center with the specified roof sheathing nailed at 4 inches on center at the sub-fascia and gable end truss. The remaining minimum roof sheath nailing shall be installed in accordance with the IRC. The IRC and WFCM both state that roof sheathing shall be continuous over two or more spans (truss or rafter) regardless of span ratings. The IRC Section R803.2.3 Roof Sheathing also allows for the installation of staggered or non-staggered wood structural sheathing.

The Pullman Building Department is asking for contractors to provide an email address so that they can be notified of training sessions being offered by various state agencies such as WABO and the WSU Extension Energy Program. If you would like to be notified please contact Kealan at 509-338-3220.



If the rake gable overhang is greater than one foot it may be designed using other provisions of the WFCM or an engineered design complying with the International Building Code. Calculations and details justifying the design will need to be provided with building plan submittals.

## Means of Egress

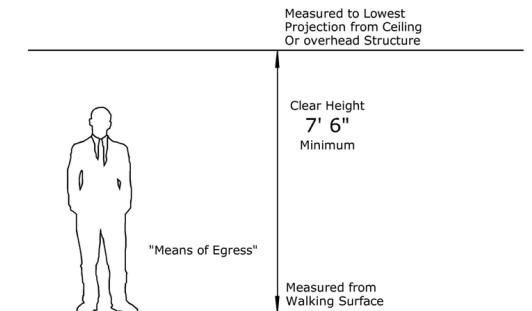
The term “means of egress” is used in the IBC to refer to what used to be called the exit system. A building’s means of egress system is divided into three parts; the exit access, the exit, and the exit discharge.

The **exit access** portion of a means of egress consists of all floor areas that lead from usable spaces within the building to the exit or exits serving that floor area. The exit access begins at the furthest point within a room or space and ends at the entrance to an exit.

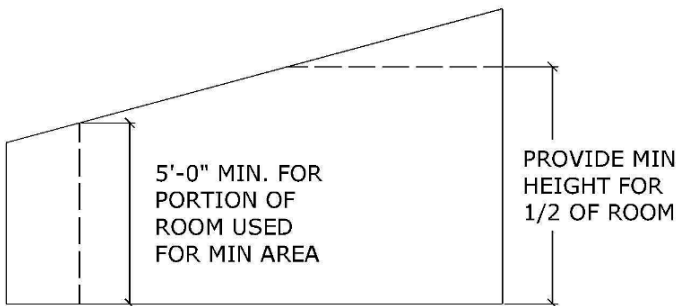
The **exit portion** of a means of egress is separated from the other interior spaces by fire resistive construction to provide a protected path of travel between the exit access and the exit discharge. An exit can also be an exterior door at ground level, exit enclosures, exit passage ways, exterior exit stairs, exterior exit ramps and horizontal exits.

The **exit discharge** is a portion of a means of egress system between the termination of an exit and a public way. The exit discharge typically begins at grade level and can include grade level walkways, and stairs leading to the public way.

Due to the unlimited potential paths of egress travel from a building, most of the floor area in a building must be considered part of the means of egress. The minimum ceiling height in the means of egress or any occupiable portion of an IBC building is 7’6”. There are exceptions for sloped ceilings, ceilings in dwelling units, projections, stair head room and door height.



Applies to all areas of the means of egress system (access, exit and discharge) unless modified by other code sections.

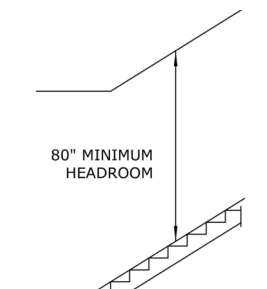


In rooms having sloped ceilings, the required ceiling height of the room is required in 1/2 the area and no portion of the room less than 5 feet from finished floor to finished ceiling is included in determining required room area.

Bathrooms, toilet rooms, kitchens, storage rooms, laundry rooms and residential occupancies are permitted to have a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet.

Protruding objects are allowed to extend below the required minimum ceiling height if a minimum head room of 80 inches is provided above any walking surface and not more than 50% of the ceiling area is reduced by protruding objects.

Doors are required to have a minimum height of 80 inches. Door closers and door stops may reduce the required head clearance to not less than 78 inches.



Stairways are required to have a minimum headroom clearance of 80 inches measured vertically from a line connecting the edge of the nosings.