



Administrative Division

To: Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Fire and Building Safety Commission
From: Ohio Township Fire Department
Warrick County, Indiana

Re: Deaconess Gateway Hospital Variance # 17171

The Ohio Township Fire Department has met and reviewed with the owner, Architect and Consultant the 3 variances requested under the above number. The variances are:

- 1) Reduce the Occupant Load factor from code required 15 sq. ft. per person to 30 sq. ft. per person during the time of the construction of the new North Tower. The Consultant has suggested a formula used in shopping malls for the exiting loads during an emergency. We agree that for the period of construction, that with the number of exits, 6 from the Atrium and a total 14 from the first floor, location (all around the perimeter of the hospital) and compliant with "remoteness" from one another, and widths 371" from the atrium and well over 720" total, of exits proposed and considering the normal "shelter in place" concept of hospitals that the request is reasonable.
- 2) The second variance for temporary exiting of a stair tower into a smoke corridor is also reasonable as there will be a trained radio-equipped staff person stationed on the second floor of the affected stair tower to direct occupants needing to exit to another one of the 9 stair towers located on the second floor. Our concurrence with this request is subject to coordinated drills with hospital and OTFD personnel to assure properly trained hospital staff personnel will be used at any given time of the day or night. We have experienced very good cooperation with the hospital staff and expect this will continue.
- 3) The final variance is to permit temporary exiting from the atrium through the existing smoke corridor along the North end of the existing tower. As this is only one of 6 exits from the atrium area it would likely receive a small percentage of people exiting in an emergency condition, as most would exit through the large main entrance/exit doors where they would have originally entered the building. There will be a trained, radio-equipped hospital staff member at each end of this corridor under emergency conditions to direct occupants into or away from this corridor. Our concurrence with this request is subject to coordinated drills with hospital and OTFD personnel to assure properly trained hospital staff personnel will be used.

Deaconess and their construction team have provided excellent communication with our department for each stage of the multiple current construction projects. OTFD supports these variances under the conditions listed above.

Department Chief

Charles Kirsch

Charles Kirsch