

ABATED LIFE SAFETY HAZARD IN FLIGHT SUIT STORAGE



Flight suit storage room exit without emergency egress hardware or NEPA-approved exit signage.

Over 200 workers at Naval Air Station (NAS), Oceana, Virginia had been exposed to a potential life safety hazard due to the absence of proper emergency exits from the building in which their workshops were located. The building did not have emergency egress (panic) hardware on any of its exits. In addition, the doors did not open outward in the direction of travel for ease of exit during an emergency, and exit doors were not fire-rated. The exits also did not meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) requirements for *Exit* signs.

To correct the problem, the Chief of Naval Operations' Hazard Abatement Program funded a new flight suit storage facility. The new building was fitted with fire-rated doors that open in the direction of travel. Exit doors are also equipped with panic hardware and proper NFPA-approved exit signs.