



## Make Sure Emergency Lights Are Ready If Needed!

In case of a loss of electricity, emergency lighting is vital. Windows and doors might provide some natural light during the day, but battery back-up or generator-powered lighting is necessary to assure a safe evacuation in all areas of the building during an emergency. Most emergency lights contain a small battery. These lights are connected to the building's electrical supply, which provides a constant charge to the battery. In the event of a power failure, circuitry in the fixture activates the lights. Most emergency lights are only designed to work for the required minimum of thirty minutes on battery power.

### How should you test the batteries?

**Emergency lights MUST be tested at least monthly.** Most emergency lights have a small "push to test" button somewhere on the casing (see picture, below right). **You should push and hold this button for thirty seconds to test the bulbs and battery.** The lights should come on and remain at the same brightness level for the full thirty seconds. **If the lights dim right away, or some of the bulbs don't work, then the lights need to be repaired (or the battery replaced) as soon as possible.** It's imperative that these lights are tested MONTHLY and documented on a checklist.



### Why test the lights for thirty seconds?

Many defective batteries will maintain just enough charge to fully light up the bulbs for a few seconds, but they will quickly lose power. If you don't test for thirty seconds it may appear that the lights work each month, but they could go out in a few seconds when you really need them to work (in an emergency). **If the lights dim right away, or some of the bulbs don't work, then the lights need to be repaired (or the battery replaced) as soon as possible!**



Make sure lights are intact and secured to the wall. This light is not properly connected.



Check other emergency lighting, like these, above, to ensure they also work.