



**CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
Fire Prevention Bureau**

Code/Procedural Interpretation

CFD Interpretation: Use of Stairways for Storage

Date: June 24, 2014

Code Reference: North Carolina Fire Code, Section 315

Subject:

Can I place a drink machine or storage in my stairway?

Interpretation:

No. The North Carolina Fire Code prohibits any storage of any kind in an enclosed stairway. An enclosed stairway, in many instances, is the only smoke-proof enclosure for occupants to utilize in the event of an emergency, or for firefighters to gain access to a floor. Placing any storage (including drink machines) in a stairway could jeopardize the use of the stairway by the occupants or firefighters during an emergency.