

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-647-0000**

**Lockdown Hardware Operation**

**Code:** 2018 Fire Prevention Code  
**Section:** 404.2.3, 1010.1.9.5

**Date:** January 1, 2019

**Code:** 2018 Building Code  
**Section:** 1010.1.9.5

**Question:**

Does the current NC Fire Code language, for the purposes of an emergency lockdown situation, allow for the utilization of more than one action or motion in order to open a door or door leaf?

**Answer:**

Yes. Lockdown situations, referenced in 404.2.3 of the Fire Prevention Code are emergency situations requiring that the occupants be sheltered and secured in place within a building when normal evacuation would put occupants at risk. Lockdown plans are implemented in situations where normal egress has been determined to be detrimental to the life or safety of the occupant. All lockdown plans shall be approved by the Fire Code Enforcement Official. This approval could include additional actions or motions in order to open a door or door leaf depending upon details specified in the lockdown plan and supersedes restrictions found in Section 1010.1.9.5 for single action unlatching of egress door hardware.

**Keywords:**

one action, locking, latching, door operation