

OVERHEAD GARAGE DOORS

Many of the buildings on fairgrounds are equipped with large powered overhead garage doors. Industrial overhead garage doors with sufficient weight or closing force can cause injury or damage to people or property caught in their path of travel. Because of this hazard, the Minnesota Administrative Rules and Department of Labor and Industry have outlined requirements for overhead door safety.

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OVERHEAD GARAGE DOOR REQUIREMENTS

The requirements state that overhead doors must incorporate at least one of the following safety options:

- An external reversing device that would immediately reverse the direction of the door upon striking an obstruction. Common reversing devices include:
 - A safety edge pneumatic air hose installed on the bottom of the door that signals the door to reverse when an obstruction is detected.
 - An optic sensor that detects objects in the path of the door and immediately reverses downward travel.
- A constant pressure actuation switch that would be operated within sight of the door and could be released and manually reversed if a person or object were in the path of the closing door.
- A three button control switch but only if the following conditions are met:
 - A permanent sign is placed adjacent to the switch and displays wording similar to “Warning: To prevent entrapment, do not start door downward unless doorway is clear.”
 - The control switch and sign are located within sight of the doorway.
 - The operator controlling the switch observes the door until it is completely closed.
 - Automatic closing controls are not also installed.



Warning sign accompanies three-button control switch.

If reversing devices are installed, they should be periodically inspected and maintained to assure that they are in good working condition. These inspections and maintenance should be recorded and retained in the event of an incident.

Individuals must use caution when opening any overhead door part way to allow ventilation. This may cause undue wear to the closing mechanism. It also may create a “bumping into” hazard for people, vehicles and equipment if there is not enough space to allow passage.

Regulations for overhead doors can be found in Minnesota Administrative Rule 5205.0675.