



# CLAY FIRE

18355 Auten Road • South Bend, IN 46637 Telephone: (574) 272-2144  
Fax: (574) 272-4043

## For Immediate Release

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Date: January 8, 2013

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Subject: Exits blocked by snow

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Contact Person: Dave Cherrone, Fire Marshal

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272-2144 (office) 532-0439 (cell)

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As temperatures are on the rise, and businesses are digging out, we want to remind the owners, operators and maintenance personnel that **ALL EXITS** must be kept clear of snow. Of greatest importance are medical facilities, nursing homes, hotels, and places of assembly. The snow must be cleared and exit doors must open freely. Also, any ramps that are in place for wheelchair accessibility are to be cleared.

The owners of a factory in Northern Illinois were recently fined by the Occupational Health and Safety Agency (OSHA) for exits blocked by snow during a fire in March of 2013. The blocked exits contributed to those who were injured trying to escape the building.

Having an evacuation plan in place in case of fire is of little help when the exits are blocked.