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A catalogue of neglect

The Sunday Morning Post investigation into public buildings revealed a catalogue of neglect over fire precautions.

Obstructions in fire-escapes from boxes piled high in corridors to passageways being used as temporary sleeping quarters.

The following report lists the offending buildings.

Energy Plaza. Management: Energy Plaza Management Company, a subsidiary of Appleyard Enterprises Limited.

One of the worst we saw. On the fourth floor a door leading on to the fire-escape route had assorted furniture stacked against it.

From the fourth floor to the ground the same escape was littered with cardboard, paper, rubbish in various containers, partitions from a restaurant and crates of bottles. On one visit we even found four human obstructions — men taking a nap right across the passageway.

A last-minute check of this escape revealed the situation had even deteriorated since our photographs were taken.

The Peninsular Centre. Management: Guardian Property Management Co Ltd.

Here, staircase 13 could be very unlucky for some. Tables obstructed access to it and tinder-dry paper and cardboard lay on the floor. Just inside the door leading on to the street there were signs that a small fire had burned unnoticed.

By JOHN PARKER

Elsewhere in the building, several smoke-lobby doors were wedged open and tins and furniture obstructed doors and stairways.

The Mandarin Plaza. Management: Tung Cheong Investment and Construction Co Ltd.

A door from the basement leads on to stairs going up to street level.

Panic-stricken people trying to escape a fire could easily fail to read the tattered "closed" notice on the door and rush up the stairs — only to find the door at the top locked and chained. No

matter how desperate they could not break through.

Again, elsewhere in the building there were many of the ubiquitous wedged-open smoke lobby doors.

South Seas Centre. Management: The South Seas Centre Management Co Ltd.

Rubbish, combustible material and metal pipes litter fire escapes causing a serious obstruction. Smoke lobby doors were wedged open. Another human obstruction here — a man asleep on a bed in an escape route.

The Harbour Crystal Centre. Management: Diamond Property Management Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Wah Kwong Properties Ltd.

Large metal boxes (about 8 ft by 5 ft by 2 ft) obstructing the fire-escapes in two places. One staircase was being used to store mobile partitions of the type used in restaurants.

The Inter-Continental Plaza. Management: Jones Lang Wootton.

Rubbish containers, boards and other items obstructing a passageway leading onto a fire-escape.