

# PRESCHOOL

- These age levels of students is the fastest growing population in our schools, and are three to six years of age.
- The population is growing so rapidly that housing these children has become a problem of major proportion.
- I receive numerous calls monthly to "come out and look at our vacant convent, rectory or school basement" for the purpose of conversion into a preschool.
- The NFPA Life Safety Code 101 is very specific; Chapter 15, Existing Educational Occupancies, Section 15.2.1.2, "Rooms normally occupied by preschool, kindergarten, or first grade students shall not be located above or below the level of exit discharge."
- This is very simple and without loopholes. One exception, if an independent means of egress dedicated solely for their use is provided these rooms may be moved from the level of egress.
- Fire codes are much more stringent for this age group.
- Illinois has plumbing code provisions for the size and number of toilets, lavatories, drinking fountains, etc.
- Lead paint will have the greatest affect on this age group.

# INSPECTION OF CONVENTS OR RECTORIES

## What to look for

1. What are the base materials of construction?
  - a. Exterior walls masonry
  - b. Floors combustible (wood)
2. Corridor width and construction.
3. Exit door swing, panic hardware and level exterior landing.
4. Fire alarm and detection system.
5. Fire suppression system.
6. Exit and emergency lighting system with alternate power source.
7. Bathrooms.

## SCHOOL BASEMENTS

1. Must provide direct means of egress to the outside.