Picture This: Emergency Exit Nightmare

What a nightmare!

Let’s start with the obvious hazard – a blocked emergency exit. Blocked by conveyors, carts, trash, and cardboard boxes.

Speaking of cardboard boxes, in the event of a fire not only would workers be trapped but they would be trapped with ready supply of fuel for the fire to consume.

If a violent incident were to occur and employees and customers made the decision to run from the building, they would be trapped in this back room – an easy target for someone with a gun or other weapon.

Additionally, this door opens inward. Most exit route doors must be unlocked, unblocked, and must swing out in the direction of travel.



https://i.redd.it/6a7sqqv31jk11.jpg

Supervisors and managers are responsible for keeping exit ways and exit doors clear of debris, objects, materials, tools, and anything else that prevents safe and efficient egress in an emergency.

Trash and used boxes need to be disposed of frequently and properly. Is there a place to recycle the cardboard boxes? Is there a dumpster close by? If so, is it being emptied on a regular basis?

It is doubtful regular inspections are taking place – and if they are taking place, someone is either grossly underqualified or simply doesn’t bother enforcing the rules.

This image shows a complete disregard for life safety, fire and building codes, safety regulations, and the general well-being of employees and customers.

Employees must take responsibility for their safety – and report this and other safety violations and hazards. If a supervisor won’t listen and act, then the employee may consider moving their complaint up the ladder. This could mean filing a complaint with the fire marshal or safety regulatory agency.