

Saving Lives and Energy

We've been helping customers save energy through state and local programs for close to 20 years. One of those programs provides free LED exit lights to businesses to replace existing incandescent exit lights. Until recently, I never thought about the true purpose of an exit light. My brain is wired to think in terms of energy savings. That changed a few weeks ago.



A business customer in our area was unfortunate enough to experience “mayhem” first hand when an overnight fire caused substantial damage to the contents of their business. Fortunately the business was unoccupied at the time and no one was injured.



A few days after the fire, I was passing by and I noticed the building owner was cleaning up some items that had been left outside. I stopped to inquire about the cause of the fire and the extent of the damage. He pulled aside a piece of plywood that was covering an entry door which revealed a room full of equipment and inventory damaged by fire and blackened by smoke. Because the power was disconnected, the room was fairly dark and there wasn't much that could be seen. But one thing jumped out at me. Hanging down from above the entry door was the melted remains of an LED exit sign. This was one of the very signs I had given to the building owner several years ago.

I looked closely at the sign and much to my amazement I could see that it was still working. Then it occurred to me that, as the power was disconnected, there was no power being delivered to the exit sign. How could it be working? Then I remembered that these signs are equipped with battery back-up – it was still running off the battery power three days later! I now realize that these signs are much more than energy savers. They are, more importantly, life savers.

I hope that “mayhem” never crosses the threshold of your business. But if it does, at least make sure you are prepared. If you haven't replaced those old incandescent exit lights yet, please give us a call.

