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## EMERGENCY LIGHTING



**FIGURE 6-13** Emergency egress lighting unit with test button

Exit signs and emergency lighting are commonly provided with batteries as the secondary power supply (for further discussion on required exit signs and egress path illumination see Chapter 11 in this book). The batteries are typically contained within the lighting unit itself. When the main power supply is lost, the battery provides the emergency power. Battery life can shorten over the life of the equipment, so maintenance of the egress lighting is critical in providing for a safe evacuation of the building. The IFC requires that exit lighting is inspected and tested on a routine basis. The devices with battery backup have a test button that drops the normal power and switches power to the battery. On a monthly basis, each

emergency lighting fixture must be tested for a 30-second period (Figure 6-13). Annually, these same devices must be tested for the full 90-minute duration which they are required to operate. Recordkeeping of the monthly and annual tests is required. [\[Ref. 604.6, 1008.3, 1013.6.3\]](#)

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