

# FIRE on Campus



## IF THERE'S A FIRE



### 1. Sound the Alarm

If you discover or suspect a fire, sound the building fire alarm. If there is no alarm in the building, warn the other occupants by knocking on doors and shouting as you leave.



### 2. Leave the Building

Try to rescue others only if you can do so safely. Move away from the building and out of the way of the fire department. Don't go back into the building until the fire department says it is safe to do so.



### 3. Call the Fire Department

Dial 911 or use an "emergency" phone. Give as much information as possible to the emergency dispatcher.

## TO SURVIVE A BUILDING FIRE



### Crawl if There's Smoke

If you get caught in smoke, get down and crawl. Cleaner, cooler air will be near the floor. Get Low – And Go.



### Feel Doors Before Opening

Before opening any doors, feel the metal knob. If it is hot, don't open the door. If it is cool, brace yourself against the door, open it slightly, and if heat or heavy smoke are present, close the door and stay in the room.



### Go to the Nearest Exit or Stairway

If the nearest exit is blocked by fire, heat, or smoke, go to another exit.



### Always use an exit stair not an elevator

Elevator shafts may fill with smoke or the power may fail, leaving you trapped. Stairway fire doors will keep out fire and smoke – if they are closed – and will protect you until you get outside.

### Close as many doors as possible as you leave

This helps to confine the fire.



### Total and immediate evacuation is safest

Only use a fire extinguisher if the fire is very small and you know how to do it safely. If you can't put out the fire, leave immediately. Make sure the fire department is called – even if you think the fire is out.

## IF YOU GET TRAPPED



### Keep the Doors Closed

Seal cracks and vents if smoke comes in. If you're trapped in a room and there's no smoke outside, open the windows – from the top to let out the heat and smoke and from the bottom to let in fresh air.



### Signal for Help

Hang an object at the window (a bed sheet, jacket, shirt) to attract the fire department's attention. If you have a phone in the room, call the fire department at 911 and report that you are trapped. Be sure to give your room number and location. **Sometimes it's Safer to Stay in Place!** If all exits from a floor are blocked, go back to your room, close the door, seal cracks, open the windows if safe, wave something at the window, and shout or phone for help. **Don't Jump! the Fire Department Will Rescue You.**

## IF YOU ARE ON FIRE



### Stop, Drop, and Roll

If your clothes catch on fire, stop, drop, and roll, wherever you are. Rolling smothers the fire.



### Cool Burns

Use cool tap water on burns, immediately. Don't use ointments. If skin is blistered, dead white, brown or charred, call for an ambulance.

## TO PREVENT FIRES



### Smoke Carefully

If you smoke, don't smoke in bed or near flammable materials. Use large ashtrays and be sure ashes, matches, and cigarette ends are cold before you dump them. Don't smoke while intoxicated. Smoking is prohibited inside University buildings. Dispose of smoking materials in outside ashtrays or smoking urns.



### Cook in Approved Areas or Kitchens and Use Laboratory Tested Appliances

Stay nearby while appliances are on. Clean up grease and appliances as soon as possible.



### Be Careful with Electricity

Use only laboratory tested appliances. Don't overload outlets. Replace damaged wires.

## HELP ELIMINATE CAMPUS FIRE HAZARDS



### Electrical Abuse

Use of electrical "octopuses" to obtain more outlets can result in overloaded circuits and fire—replace damaged wires—match your appliance power requirements to the circuit power. Most electrical circuits only supply 15 or 20 amps per room for all the outlets.



### Appliances

Hotplates, irons, space heaters, etc. should never be left unattended. They should be unplugged after use and not stored until they are cool enough to touch. Also, appliances may overload circuits—keep heaters away from curtains and furniture—match the size of an extension cord to the appliance power cord to prevent cord overheating.



### Open Flames

Candles, bunsen burners, and other open flames, etc. should never be left unattended. Extinguish all open flames, even if left for a very short time. Candles are very hazardous in bedrooms and are prohibited in University residential buildings.



### Hazardous Storage

Dispose of all waste as soon as possible. Surplus material should be stored in a safe place, not in corridors, stairs or exit ways.



### Flammable Liquids

Gasoline, kerosene, ether, paint, glue, etc. may not be stored in residential buildings. In laboratories, shops and classrooms, storage of flammable liquids is limited to specific quantities and approved containers.

# FIRE ON CAMPUS



## Bicycles

Park bicycles in approved locations, such as bicycle racks. Bicycles attached to handrails for building exit stairs and ramps are subject to removal and impoundment.



## Obstacles

Storage of bicycles, chairs, desks, and other items is prohibited in all exit ways.

## PROTECT YOURSELF



### Participate in Fire Drills

Fire drills are conducted to familiarize you with the sound of your building's fire alarm, the emergency exits which you may not normally use, and the procedure for calling the fire department. Learn where other exits are – now.



### If You Are Disabled

If you are disabled (even temporarily), you should learn about fire safety, plan ahead for fire emergencies and be aware of your own capabilities and limitations.





If you are a resident, notify a Resident Director in a residence hall, or a House Director in a Greek House of your disability. Notify a department head if you use a particular building on a regular basis. Look for "areas of refuge", like stair enclosures or the other side of corridor fire doors. Most elevators are designed to stop operating when the alarm is sounding and are not safe during fires. Sometimes it may be safer to stay in your room. Follow the advice for being trapped.



### If You Use Alcohol or Drugs

You are especially vulnerable to smoke asphyxiation. Even young healthy people may not be able to escape a fire if they are intoxicated. They may not hear the smoke alarm or be able to find an exit. Take special care of anyone who becomes intoxicated, particularly if the person is a smoker. Let the fire department know if you think someone hasn't evacuated the building.

## Report Damaged Fire Equipment




FIRE DOORS		Should close completely and automatically.
EXIT SIGNS		Two exits should be visible from all public areas.
FIRE ALARMS		Horns, bells, and pull stations should be accessible and not vandalized.
SPRINKLERS		Keep 18" clearance around heads. Report bent or damaged heads.
SMOKE ALARMS		Keep them clear so they can detect smoke when you are asleep, and wake you in time to get out.
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS		Report empty or vandalized extinguishers.

## For deficiencies in fire protection and safety equipment

- in Academic and Administrative buildings **call Work Control at 301.405.2222**
- in residential buildings **call 301.314.WORK (9675)**
- in off-campus buildings call the landlord or property manager

## UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire		911
Police		911
Ambulance and Rescue		911
Emergency TTY Number for the Deaf Fire–Police–Rescue		911

### OR USE CAMPUS EMERGENCY PHONES

Blue Light Emergency Phones provide a direct line to the UM Department of Public Safety which operates the 911 center for campus.

### CELL PHONES

To reach the UM Department of Public Safety on cell phones and other off-campus phones, call 301.405.3333.



### Report Fire-Related Crimes to the Police

There is a reward for information leading to the arrest of an arsonist.

Causing a false alarm is a crime punishable by a fine of \$5,000 and 5 years imprisonment.

Vandalism of fire extinguishers, exit signs, and fire alarms robs you of your fire protection.

Any student responsible for these crimes can be expelled from the University, in addition to criminal prosecution. A conviction could prevent your acceptance to graduate or professional school.

For comprehensive information on emergency preparedness, go to [www.umd.edu/emergencypreparedness/](http://www.umd.edu/emergencypreparedness/)

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(Rev. AUG08)

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