

Fire

Each year, more than 4,000 Americans die and more than 25,000 are injured in fires, many of which could be prevented. Direct property loss due to fires is estimated at \$8.6 billion annually.

To protect yourself, it is important to understand the basic characteristics of fire. Fire spreads quickly; there is no time to gather valuables or make a telephone call. In just two minutes, a fire can become life-threatening. In five minutes, a residence can be engulfed in flames.

Heat and smoke from fire can be more dangerous than the flames. Inhaling the super-hot air can sear your lungs. Fire produces poisonous gases that make you disoriented and drowsy. Instead of being awakened by a fire, you may fall into a deeper sleep. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a three-to-one ratio.

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Source

United States Fire Administration

National Fire Protection Association

State of Michigan Bureau of Fire Services

More Information

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/>

<http://www.nfpa.org>

http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271---,00.html

Prevention / Mitigation / Preparedness - Fire

Work with the Fire Safety Services (615-6764) and request guidance as necessary on:

1. Inspecting fire protection devices such as fire extinguishers, fire hoses and other fire protection/detection equipment as appropriate
2. Reporting any used or damaged fire protection.
3. Becoming familiar with the location of fire alarm pull stations, stairways and emergency exits. Post evacuation routes.
4. Personnel working in laboratories, facilities management, food service, residential life, and student health are required to attend fire extinguisher training.

Review the protective actions section of this EOP regarding persons with disabilities. Identify staff that will assist and discuss efforts needed to get the disabled into a safe location.

Establish a three deep system of personnel located at the building and provide training on how to evacuate safely.

Establish a building floor marshal system to ensure all persons in the building are in a safe location. This should include a quick sweep of each room on each floor, keeping everyone assembled in an orderly manner, and remaining in a designated secure area until the “all clear” signal has been issued by emergency personnel.

Do not overload extension cords or outlets. If you need to plug in two or three appliances, get a UL-approved unit with built-in circuit breakers to prevent sparks and short circuits.

Make sure wiring does not run under rugs, over nails, or across high-traffic areas.

Inspect extension cords for frayed or exposed wires or loose plugs.

Make sure outlets have cover plates and no exposed wiring.

Response – Fire

At the time of activation, you will not know if an alarm is false. For this reason, regard each alarm as if it were real. In fact, it is a violation of local fire code to disregard alarm activations by refusal to evacuate. The procedure for response to false alarm activations is identical to the steps outlined for automatic activation; however, you will not find a fire or smoke situation.

The BIRT will work to ensure all building occupants are evacuating.

Check closed doors for heat before you open them. If you are escaping through a closed door, use the back of your hand to feel the top of the door, the doorknob, and the crack between the door and door frame before you open it. Never use the palm of your hand or fingers to test for heat - burning those areas could impair your ability to escape a fire (i.e., ladders and crawling).

Prior to exiting the building, turn off or stabilize any process/experiment/equipment if it is safe to do so.

If You Discover Fire on Your Floor

1. Manually activate the fire alarm system.
2. Alert people in the area of the need to evacuate.
3. Immediately exit the building, closing doors behind you (DO NOT USE ELEVATORS).
4. Call 911 once in a safe location.

Once a Fire Alarm Is Activated

1. Walk to the nearest exit (DO NOT USE ELEVATORS).
2. Assist persons with special needs.
3. Notify fire personnel if you suspect someone is trapped inside the building.
4. Gather outside at a designated assembly area, and do not attempt to re-enter the building until instructed to do so by DPS or OSEH.
5. Stand-by outside to provide assistance information to fire department relative to location, size and type of fire.

If Trapped in a Room

1. Call 911
2. Wet and place cloth material around and under the door to prevent smoke from entering the room.
3. Close as many doors as possible between you and the fire.
4. Try to signal someone outside, but DO NOT BREAK GLASS until absolutely necessary (outside smoke may be drawn into the room).

If Caught In Smoke

1. Drop to hands and knees and crawl toward exit.
2. Stay low, as smoke will rise to ceiling level.
3. Breathe shallowly through nose and use a filter such as a shirt or towel.

If Forced to Advance Through Flames (which should be a last resort)

1. Hold your breath. Move quickly.
2. Wet a blanket or large coat and cover your head and hair prior to escape if possible.

If Your Clothing Catches On Fire

1. Stop, drop and roll until the fire is extinguished. Running only makes the fire burn faster.

Using a Fire Extinguisher

1. Pull safety pin from handle
2. Aim at base of fire
3. Squeeze the trigger handle.
4. Sweep from side to side at base

If There Is an Explosion

1. Take shelter under a desk or sturdy table.
1. Check for fire and other hazards
2. Do not light matches or lighter.
3. Exit the building as quickly as possible if it appears safe to do so, or if directed by DPS or the Fire Department. (DO NOT USE ELEVATORS.)

If You Are Trapped In Debris

1. Call 911 if able.
2. Use a flashlight to signal your location if possible.
3. Avoid unnecessary movement so that you don't kick up dust.
4. Cover your mouth and nose with anything you have on hand. Dense-weave cotton material can create a good filter. Try to breathe through the material.
5. Tap on a pipe or wall so that rescuers can hear where you are.
6. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort – shouting can cause a person to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

Recovery - Fire

If the building has sustained damage contact Plant Operations (647-2059) immediately for assistance

Remain calm and listen to authorities (DPS, Ann Arbor Fire, OSEH)

The incident commander (DPS) in charge of the scene will provide an “all clear” allowing occupants to return to the building.

If you are with a burn victim, or are a burn victim yourself, call 911; cool and cover burns to reduce chance of further injury or infection.

Debrief with all parties involved in the response and recovery efforts to discuss strengths and weaknesses and what could have been done better.

Contact Risk Management (764-2200) so claims management and other insurance matters can be handled.