Fire Safety for Building Chairs

Department of University Safety & Assurances
www.safety.uwm.edu
Overview

• Fire safety is everyone’s responsibility.
• Building chairs are often called upon to serve as fire safety liaisons.
Arson Fires on Campus

- There have been eight suspicious fires on campus since September 25, 2004.
- Building chairs have been contacted after hours to assist with response and help with investigation.
Fire Alarms

- All UWM buildings have audible fire alarms.
- Most have strobe flashers.
- Some audible alarms time out after ~15 minutes, even if there is a working fire.
- All must wait for an “All Clear” from the Milwaukee Fire Department or the University Police.
- The Building Chair may give an “All Clear” if approved by the fire department or University Police.
Fire Protection Systems

- Smoke Heads vs. Heat Detectors
- Some buildings have sprinkler systems
- Upgrades underway
When an Alarm is Activated

- Alarms sound at the University Police station
- Officers are dispatched to verify the alarm
- If there is a fire, the Milwaukee Fire Department is called via a “hot line”
When an Alarm is Activated

- If you know there is a fire, notify University Police ASAP
- MFD will then be called immediately (before an officer is sent)
- If there is no fire, the alarm will be reset and occupants will be given an “All Clear”
Milwaukee Fire Department Response

- MFD typically arrives within 3 to 5 minutes
- The Fire Department assumes full authority
- If the alarm sounds and there is no MFD response within 5 minutes, notify University Police immediately
Fire Alarm Procedures

• Fire alarms mean **EVACUATE**
• Alert persons in the area; close doors to confine fire & smoke damage
• Evacuate through nearest safe exit
• Do not use elevators
• Call University Police from safe location
  Call 9-911 or (cellular) 229-9911
• Move away from building.
• Do not re-enter until an "All Clear" is announced
Evacuate Building

- Evacuate the building quickly and calmly by way of the nearest exit
- Shut doors behind you to reduce the spread of fire
- If there is heavy smoke, stay low
If Occupants are Unable to Leave

• Contact University Police and inform the dispatcher of the persons exact location
• Advise fire fighters of the location of disabled persons
• Move disabled persons to a stairwell or shelter area
False Alarms

- False alarms may be triggered by construction dust, etc.
- PPS and US&A will attempt to keep Building Chairs and University Police informed.
Fire Preparedness

- Plan Ahead
- Determine shelter areas.
- Conduct fire drills
- Consult evacuation floor plans
Classroom Emergency Procedures

Classroom Emergency Procedures are posted in all general assignment classrooms.

- **Classroom Emergency Procedures**

To report any type of emergency, Dial 8-811 from any campus phone to contact the UMM Police Dispatch. Identify the type of emergency and the type of assistance you need. Stay on the line until the dispatcher tells you to hang up.

From a cell phone: Dial 8-811. You will be connected with the county cell phone dispatcher. Give them your location (see address below) and tell them you are on the UMM campus. Identify the type of emergency and type of assistance you need. Stay on the line until the dispatcher tells you to hang up.

**If you hear the FIRE ALARM:**
- Calmly collect your books and belongings and exit the room.
- Leave the room and go to the nearest building exit. Know the location of alternate exits should one be blocked.
- Do not use the elevators during an alarm.
- Go to the Emergency Assembly Point (see information below) and await further instructions.
- Persons with disabilities should move to a area to the side or other area of escape assistance.

**If there is a POWER OUTAGE:**
- Remain in your seat to allow the outage to end and let your eyes adjust.
- If the outage appears to be long term the instructor may dismiss the class.

**If there is a TORNADO WARNING:**
- Seek shelter immediately. Go to the lowest level of the building, away from windows and glass. Couch down and cover your head.
- Do not use elevators. Avoid auditoriums, gymnasiums and other large rooms with windows.
- The recommended shelter area is the building or a theater.

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You are in
Lapham Hall, Room 160
at 3205 N. Maryland Avenue

The nearest building exits to the left and out through the northern building exit. Assemble in the Kunkle (Scancor) parking lot after a building evacuation.

Recommended tornado shelter areas for Lapham: Basement or hallways and rooms with no outside windows or display glass. Avoid all rooms, lobby areas, hallways, and areas with exterior windows or display glass.
Exits & Electrical Hazards

- Storage is prohibited in hallways and stairwells.
- Exits must remain unobstructed.
- Extension cords – 30 day limit!
• Fire doors must not be propped open
• Fire extinguishers must be easily accessible
Summary

• Fire safety is everyone’s responsibility
• Building chairs must partner with University Police, University Safety & Assurances & PPS to ensure UWM buildings are fire safe.