

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY COMPLIANCE GUIDE 2023

Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark, Wooster



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE AND INTEGRITY
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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The Ohio State University is committed to providing a fire-safe environment for its students, faculty, staff, patients and visitors and to protect its property through an effective fire prevention, protection, preparedness and response program. The purpose of this Fire and Life Safety Compliance Guide is to assist the university community in working together to maintain an environment that reduces the risk of fire hazards.

The Fire and Life Safety Compliance Guide outlines how the university proposes to safeguard life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion arising from storage, handling or using materials or equipment, and from conditions hazardous to life and property. The requirements of the policy are based on compliance with Ohio Fire Code (2017), enforced by the State of Ohio Fire Marshal Office, State of Ohio Department of Commerce, and other applicable federal, state, and local codes and standards.

This Fire and Life Safety Compliance Guide was developed to give our campus community the information needed to adhere to the Ohio Fire Code and to help contribute to the safety of our campus community. It offers guidance on some of the most common fire and life safety issues that, if not properly addressed, can become fire code violations. This guide addresses four major areas: fire prevention, fire protection, fire emergency preparedness, and fire response.

SCOPE AND APPLICATION

The requirements in this guide apply to all university faculty, staff, students, volunteers, and outside contractors working on university premises. The policy is applicable to all occupied or unoccupied facilities owned or leased by the university, activities including storage, handling and use of materials and equipment within the

facilities, and new construction and renovation from the planning stage to project completion.

RESPONSIBILITY

Students, faculty, and staff are responsible for complying with the procedures outlined in this guide, and any additional procedures specific to their department or building. Each individual must follow the fire safety and emergency evacuation procedure specific for their area and any specific instructions from the area floor evacuation coordinators and Building Coordinators. All fire- or smoke-related incidents, regardless of their size, promptly should be reported by dialing **9-1-1**. Any unsafe condition and injury should be reported to the appropriate supervisor. Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) is available to assist by providing technical and code information, guidance, training, and education.

We look forward to working with our staff, students, and volunteers to provide a fire-safe environment at Ohio State. Feel free to contact Emergency Management and Fire Prevention for further information or clarification regarding fire and life safety issues.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Emergency Management – 614-247-4911
- Facilities Operations and Development, Columbus – 614-292-HELP
- Environmental Health and Safety – 614-292-1284
- University Police Division
 - Columbus – Blankenship Hall, 901 Woody Hayes Drive, 614-292-2121
 - Lima – 134 Galvin Hall, 4240 Campus Drive, 614-292-2121
 - Mansfield, Riedl Hall, 1760 University Drive, 614-292-2121
 - Marion – 138 Morrill Hall, 1465 Mt. Vernon Ave., 614-292-2121
 - Newark, 105 Warner Library and Student Center, 1219 University Drive, 614-292-2121

- Wooster, Simon Rice House, 1727 Williams Drive, 614-292-2121

FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FIRE RESPONSE PROCEDURES

In case of a fire or a fire alarm, the following procedure is to be followed. Generally, the RACE procedure is used in all university facilities with some variations. Always consult and follow your building-specific Building Emergency Action Plan or posted evacuation procedures.

If you discover a fire or smoke condition: RACE

- Rescue any person in immediate danger.
- Alarm — pull the fire alarm to alert everyone.
- Confine the fire by closing all doors, where possible. Turn off electric and gas equipment in your area as you evacuate, if possible.
- Evacuate using the nearest stair exit. Follow the exit signs.
- Extinguish a small fire using a fire extinguisher, if trained.
- Report the incident by calling 9-1-1 from a safe location.
- Report any discharged fire extinguishers and any first-hand information that you might have.

If you hear or see a fire alarm signal or announcement:

- Follow the emergency procedure for your building and area.
- Follow the announcements on the public address system or instructions of your area floor captains.
- Evacuate or stand by and stay alert as instructed on the public address system.
- Follow the EXIT signs. Use stairs. Do not use elevators. Walk at a normal pace.
- Wait outside in the designated assembly areas at least 50 feet or more away from the building as instructed.

- Re-enter the building only after the “all clear” is announced by Ohio State Public Safety or the responding fire department.

Procedure for People with Disabilities

- Note: Each department should complete the Emergency Plan for People with Disabilities form to develop their specific evacuation strategy. Refer to the Building Emergency Action Plan (BEAP) for specific guidance about evacuation procedures for people with disabilities and roles and responsibilities for staff, faculty, and evacuation assistants.
- All occupants: report the presence of any person with a disability in the building to the fire department.
- 4 Types of Evacuation: Horizontal, stairway evacuation, shelter in place, or seek an area of refuge.
- Evacuation Assistants: Assist individuals with evacuation. Report to first responders.
- Floor Evacuation Coordinators: Assist individuals with evacuation. Report to first responders.
- Do not evacuate vertically unless the person is able to ambulate.
- Do not use the elevators unless assisted by first responders.

Remember Fire Extinguisher Key Words – P.A.S.S.

- Pull the pin
- Aim at the base of the fire
- Squeeze the handle
- Sweep from side to side

ABC Fire Types

- Class A = wood, paper, plastic
- Class B = oil, grease, flammables
- Class C = Electrical

USING THE FIRE ALARM BOX

As you walk toward an exit in the corridor or near the stairwell door, you should find at least one wall-mounted metal box – a fire alarm pull box. In case of fire or smoke, just pull it down as indicated. An alarm should sound and an announcement might follow, where equipped. The alarm system also can be activated automatically when a heat or smoke detector senses a fire or smoke condition.

Once the alarm is activated, notification goes to the Department of Public Safety, which then dispatches appropriate responders. Use the fire alarm pull box promptly to minimize the loss of life and property because of fire.

Some pull boxes have Plexiglas covers that, when lifted, produce a local warning sound. Note that this is not a fire alarm sound. To activate the fire alarm throughout the building, you must pull the inner pull box.

To ensure that the system will protect you, you should know at least two pull box locations in your area. Maintain pull boxes free of obstructions and clearly visible at all times.

Report any fire alarm concerns to Ohio State's Emergency Management and Fire Prevention at **614-247-4911**.

FIRE INCIDENT RESPONSE

In addition to the fire evacuation procedure, the following responses may be necessary:

Utilizing Fire Extinguishers

A fire extinguisher should be used only for small, incipient stage fires such as ones that might occur in a wastepaper basket, and only by a trained individual. A large, developed or spreading fire should be handled by the responding fire department.

Training is available to familiarize members of the university community with proper fire extinguisher use and tactics by contacting Ohio State's Fire Prevention at **614-247-3473**.

All used, missing or damaged fire extinguishers should be reported to Service2Facilities at go.osu.edu/servicerequest or by calling **614-292-4357**.

Responding to Clothing Fires and Burn Injuries

What you do for a burn in the first few minutes can make a difference in the severity of the injury.

- Stop the burning process. Remove the source of heat. If clothing catches fire, STOP, DROP, AND ROLL to smother the flames.
- Remove all burned clothes. Clothing may retain heat and cause a deeper injury. If clothing adheres to the skin, cut or tear around adherent area to preserve good skin tissue.
- Pour cool water over areas burned. Keep pouring the cool water for at least 3-5 minutes (30-40 minutes for chemical injury). DO NOT PACK THE BURNED AREAS IN ICE! This may increase the extent of injury and cause hypothermia.
- Remove all jewelry, belts, tight clothing, etc., from the burned areas and from around the victim's neck. Swelling of burned areas occurs immediately.
- Do not apply ointments or butter to wounds. These may cause infection because of their oil base and convert wounds to deeper injury.
- Cover burns with a clean dry dressing, bandage, or sheet.
- Keep the victim warm!
- Seek medical attention as soon as possible!

FIRE OR SMOKE INCIDENT REPORTING

Students, staff, faculty, volunteers, and outside contractors working on the university premises must immediately report all fire or smoke incidents regardless of size or type, by calling **9-1-1** or **614-292-2121**. This notification must be made whether or not the fire already has been extinguished.

The fire scene should not be disturbed. Removal of any items from the fire or smoke scene without prior approval is prohibited. This is to ensure that no evidence that may be critical in incident investigation is lost. The affected department should promptly notify Ohio State's Department of Public Safety if there is a potential for further damage to property or injury to the occupants, if left on the fire scene. Where the department must act swiftly to protect valuable research or records from further damage, it should be made known to the Department of Public Safety. The Department of Public Safety documents all fires, regardless of size.

The area of the fire cannot be re-occupied until public safety officials announce "all clear."

RESPONDING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Once a fire alarm is activated, notification goes to the Department of Public Safety that then dispatches appropriate responders. If you have specific emergency-related information, share it with the responding fire department or public safety personnel.

FIRE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS

Each university-owned or -leased facility has a Building Emergency Action Plan (BEAP) specific to that location. Each school/unit administrator and appropriate Building Coordinator is responsible for developing a Building Emergency Action Plan, implementing it, and updating the BEAP in conjunction with Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP). All employees should take the online Building Emergency Action Plan training available through the Office of Environmental Health & Safety.

Upon discovering a fire or smoke condition or upon hearing a fire alarm, each building occupant should follow the instructions as noted on the posted evacuation floor plans or follow the direction of the area floor captains or other emergency responders. Emergency procedures may require either total or partial building evacuation. Special “defend-in-place” procedures also are utilized for health-care facilities and areas where critical activities are occurring. Procedures are available in one or more of the following formats:

[Building Emergency Action Plans](#) are required for all buildings. Copies of these plans should be made available to employees for review and use. Each written plan should outline the roles and responsibilities of departments or individuals during an emergency. Topics such as evacuation, communications, emergency procedures, fire safety, training, planning, and implementation are primary components of the BEAP. In addition, individual departments may add or create supplementary appendices to the BEAP to satisfy the needs of a specific area.

Emergency evacuation floor plans are posted throughout the building to assist the building occupants in becoming

familiar with their location, directions to exit, and location of fire protection and safety devices. These plans also include a brief fire alarm emergency procedure. As you walk out from your work area to an exit, you may find an evacuation floor plan posted on a wall, probably near the elevator lobby or fire alarm pull box. Take time to review the information for your safety.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

People with disabilities (PWD) are more at risk during an emergency situation. Their presence in the stairwells during an emergency, especially when stair landings are crowded with evacuating people, can significantly impede the flow of evacuation, potentially causing serious injury to both the evacuees and people with disabilities. Therefore, sheltering in place of people with disabilities for their safe evacuation during fire or other emergencies requires careful planning and preparation. Appropriate procedures based on risk factors, such as occupant and building characteristics, are required to prevent serious life safety hazards.

Emergency procedures for PWD have been developed to promote the safety of PWD and all other building occupants during an emergency evacuation. It also may be used with appropriate modifications in areas where patients may be undergoing medical procedures and where discontinuing any active patient care may pose an increased risk to the patient. In these cases, those who are involved directly in patient care should ensure that all necessary communications, notifications, and safety measures outlined in the procedure are implemented.

Each department should develop and implement a departmental plan, using the Emergency Procedures for People with Disabilities in conjunction with the Building Coordinator and Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) as required. The department should ensure that this procedure is incorporated in the building-specific Building Emergency Action Plan (BEAP).

EMFP can offer technical assistance for emergency preparedness training for evacuation assistants and floor evacuation coordinators as part of training programs and for individual departments as requested.

FIRE EXIT DRILLS

Fire exit drills are conducted to provide an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and emergency responders to become familiar with the building fire safety features, to practice emergency procedures, and to ensure the efficient and safe use of exits.

To ensure that this practice is adequate, the Building Coordinator, in consultation with Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) should arrange the drills so they simulate probable varying emergency conditions specific to the building. The schedule for such drills should be representative of various shifts. All drills must be coordinated with the Building Coordinator and EMFP in such a manner so as to minimize the disruption of normal business operations or patient care, to the greatest extent possible.

An unscheduled fire alarm evacuation shall not be considered as a fire evacuation drill. The Building Coordinator may complete the Fire Alarm Procedure Evaluation form and submit it to EMFP for record keeping and have any evacuation-related deficiencies addressed.

All deficiencies identified during the drills must be promptly addressed. The Building Coordinator or floor evacuation coordinators must follow-up on identified issues. EMFP or the Building Coordinator should report all building-related items to Service2Facilities at 614-292-HELP (4357) or via web-based reporting as provided by Facilities Operations and Development at fod.osu.edu/s2f.

Fire exit drills must be conducted utilizing the procedure established by EMFP and the Ohio Fire Code. Fire drills were conducted based on Federal and State public health guidance regarding COVID-19.

Occupancy Group B:	Annually
Occupancy Group E:	Monthly
Occupancy Group R-2:	Quarterly
High Rise:	Quarterly

For questions regarding the occupancy type of your building, contact Ohio State's Fire Prevention at 614-247-4911 for specific information.

FIRE ALARM PROCEDURE EVALUATION

All building floor evacuation coordinators, evacuation assistants, and Building Coordinators should complete a "Fire Drill Checklist" to evaluate all fire alarms, including fire exit drills and fire incidents. The purpose of this form is to evaluate fire alarm response performance and identify and correct any deficiencies. The completed form is then forwarded to Ohio State's Fire Prevention.

FIRE SAFETY TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Fire and life safety training and education are provided to the university faculty, staff, students, area floor evacuation coordinators, and Building Coordinators as part of fire exit drills, hands-on fire extinguisher training, student orientation programs, and other training as necessary. Appropriate department managers or supervisors should ensure that their staff members are adequately informed or trained in building-specific fire emergency evacuation and response procedure. The department managing the project should ensure that all outside contractor personnel are informed of the building fire emergency procedures.

Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) offers fire and life safety education and training for the Building Coordinators, floor evacuation coordinators and evacuation assistants as part of scheduled fire exit drills and extinguisher training programs. EMFP also offers additional training as requested. The following areas are covered during the quarterly pre-drill training session: explanation of the plan; how to sound an alarm; how to isolate the fire or smoke; how to evacuate; how to use a fire extinguisher; fire exit drill procedure; the location of fire exits, pull boxes, exit stairwells; and areas of refuge.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Portable fire extinguishers of appropriate type and size are provided as required in all areas. Extinguishers are inspected, tested, maintained, and documented as required by the Ohio Fire Code. Facilities Operations and Development (FOD), Environmental Health & Safety (EHS), and Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) must ensure compliance with this requirement as applicable. Fire extinguishers are provided throughout all university buildings for use by trained students, faculty, and staff. EMFP provides

related classroom training during scheduled fire exit drills and during hands-on training. Each user should be familiar with the following basic safety information in the fire extinguisher fact sheet.

Portable fire extinguishers effectively extinguish 90% of all fires before the fire department responds. Research shows that fires get out of control in 3-5 minutes. A fire extinguisher is your first aid to fire fighting. Because an average extinguisher discharges completely in less than 1 minute, it is important that you know at least two locations for extinguishers nearest to your work area and know how to use them effectively.

Safety Precautions

- Before using a fire extinguisher, always pull the building fire alarm.
- Do not attempt to use a fire extinguisher if the fire is large and spreading. Use it only for small-fire defense (e.g., a wastepaper basket).
- Do not use the fire extinguisher if the lock pin is tampered, the cylinder is damaged, or if the pressure gauge pointer is in the “recharge” zone.
- Do not use the fire extinguisher if you are not trained and confident about using it.
- Read the extinguisher label to ensure it is the right type for the kind of fire at hand. The label indicates one or more of the fire classes and symbols (below), and specific applications for which it can be used.
- Protect yourself at all times:
- Never block your escape route.

- Stay low. Avoid breathing the heated smoke and fumes.
- If the fire cannot be controlled, get out immediately to safety.

How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

- Position yourself at a safe distance from the fire (e.g., 8-10 feet when using an ABC-type unit, 5-7 feet when using a CO₂ unit, or 20-25 feet with Pressurized Water extinguisher).
- Remember the “P-A-S-S” procedure:
 - Pull the pin: This unlocks the operating lever and allows you to discharge the extinguisher.
 - Aim low: Point the extinguisher nozzle, horn, hose at the base of the fire.
 - Squeeze and hold the handle to discharge the extinguishing agent without any interruption.
 - Sweep slowly from side to side as you hold the handle squeezed.
- Move closer carefully as the fire gets smaller and as you continue spraying.
- Watch the fire area until it has completely cooled down.
- Repeat the “P-A-S-S” procedure if the fire re-ignites.
- Report the discharged extinguisher to Service2Facilities at 614-292-HELP (4357). Once used, the extinguisher must be recharged.

Types of Fire Extinguishers

Class	Symbol	Application	Identification/Description
A	Letter “A” in triangle	Ordinary combustibles. (e.g., wood, paper, cloth)	Stainless steel cylinder body with pressure gauge. Cools fire with pressurized water. Do not use for flammable liquids (B) or electrical (C) fire.
B	Letter “B” in square	Flammable liquids/gases. (e.g., gasoline, oil, paint)	Red cylinder body and horn, no gauge. Deprives the fire reaction of oxygen with carbon dioxide. Home kitchen fire use.
C	Letter “C” in circle	Energized electrical equipment. (e.g., powered appliances)	Interrupts chemical chain reaction. Both carbon dioxide and ABC type extinguishers can be used.
ABC	A, B, and C	All of the above applications. Multipurpose ABC, home use	Red cylinder body. Interrupts chemical chain reaction of fire with dry chemical powder. Most commonly used.

Class	Symbol	Application	Identification/Description
K	Letter "K"	Commercial cooking, deep-frying with oils and fats. Minimum rating: 2A: 1B: C: K	Stainless steel cylinder body with long safety wand. Cools and interrupts chemical reaction. Uses wet chemical with fine mist application. Relatively new.
AC	Water Mist Letter "A" Letter "C"	Trash, wood, paper, and electrical equipment. For clean rooms; minimum rating 2A: C	White paint finish cylinder with long safety wand. Preferred for clean rooms, telecom, electronics equipment areas. Relatively new.

BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

As you walk in the hallways on your way to an exit – and usually near the stairwell door – you should find at least one fire alarm pull box. In case of fire or smoke, always pull the alarm box first, regardless of the size of the fire. Upon pulling this box, an alarm should sound, and verbal instructions might follow.

The alarm system also should be activated automatically when a heat or smoke detector detects a fire or smoke condition, protecting both people and property even when the fire is not noticed by an individual. Once the alarm is activated, notification goes to the local fire department through the Department of Public Safety. Your awareness and prompt use of the fire alarm system can minimize the loss of life and property because of fire. To ensure that the system will protect you, you must:

- Evacuate during all fire alarms.
- Respond to all alarms equally. Never assume that it is a test or a drill or a false alarm!
- Become familiar with your building's fire alarm system and alarm notification procedures.
- Know at least two pull box locations in your area.
- Know how to activate the fire alarm.
- Maintain pull boxes free of obstructions and clearly visible at all times.
- Report promptly to the Department of Public Safety, if the alarm is not heard properly in your area.

- Some pull boxes have Plexiglas covers that, when lifted, produce a local warning sound. Note that this is not a fire alarm sound. To activate the fire alarm throughout the building, you must pull the inner pull box.

SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Sprinklers are installed in many building areas to protect both life and property. In case of fire, each sprinkler head detects temperature in the room and begins spraying water as soon as the room temperature exceeds a predetermined value.

Not all buildings or areas are equipped with sprinkler systems. Hazardous locations, storage areas and basement levels generally are protected with sprinklers as required by the Ohio Fire Code. Many new houses are now equipped with residential sprinkler systems because most fire-related deaths continue to occur in residential buildings.

As you store materials and boxes in your area, always maintain a minimum of two feet clearance between the ceiling and the storage. This clearance allows the sprinkler head to spray water uniformly and extinguish the fire effectively. If you notice any unsafe conditions, such as a sprinkler head that is painted over or heavily laden with dust, blocked in any other manner, or broken, promptly report this condition to Emergency Management and Fire Prevention and Facilities Operations and Development (614-292-HELP).

FIRE AND SMOKE-BARRIER DOORS

University buildings are equipped with fire-rated doors and smoke-barrier doors. These doors prevent smoke and heat from traveling up stairwells and along corridors.

Facilities Operations and Development is tasked with maintaining these doors, including all hardware.

FIRE HOSE CONNECTIONS

As you walk in the building corridor, you may find cabinets marked “Fire Hose Connection.” The fire department generally connects their fire hose to this connection. This area must be maintained free of obstructions and clearly visible at all times for effective firefighting. If you see any fire hose connection that is not properly capped or a cap is missing, report it to Emergency Management and Fire Prevention and Facilities Operations and Development.

FIRE PREVENTION

AVOIDING FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS

The university is required to comply with the fire safety regulations enforced by the State of Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of the State Fire Marshal, and the Columbus Division of Fire. Therefore, the university is subject to various inspections by these agencies. Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) inspects all buildings owned, operated, and rented by the university at least on an annual basis, and the Ohio State University’s Wexner Medical Center on a quarterly basis.

The following tips chiefly reflect the most commonly cited violations at Ohio State. Look for these items or conditions in your workplace, correct them, or contact EMFP for assistance.

Common Fire Code Violations

- Compressed gas – unsafe storage
- Poor housekeeping
- Blocked exit and storage
- Combustibles
- Exit blocked
- Exit sign inoperable
- No fire stopping in open penetration
- Unsafe storage of chemicals
- Open electrical panel

- Door wedge
- Storage in stairwell
- Door chock to hold open a fire door
- Materials storage in hallway
- Extension cords instead of permanent wiring

Maintain Safe Ingress/Egress Locations and Corridors

- Maintain all ingress/egress locations and corridors in a safe condition, available for immediate utilization and free of all obstructions or impediments for full instant use in case of fire or other emergency.
- Do not store combustibles or hazardous materials in any egress corridors.
- Maintain fire alarm pull boxes, fire extinguishers, hose connections, audiovisual alarm flashers, safety showers, eyewashes, and other emergency response equipment free of obstructions and clearly visible at all times.
- Do not use doorstops, wedges, or other unapproved hold-open devices with fire-rated or smoke-barrier doors.

Maintain Safe Ceiling Clearances in All Areas

- Maintain at least 24” clearance between all material storage and the ceiling.

Maintain Safe Chemicals Storage in Laboratories

- Limit the quantities of flammable liquids to 10 gallons per laboratory and combustible liquids to 30 gallons per laboratory.
- Store flammable liquids not in active use in an approved flammable storage cabinet. Storage of flammable liquids is not permitted outside of an approved flammable storage cabinet in laboratories constructed or renovated after December 2001.
- Consult Environmental Health & Safety (EHS, 614-292-1284) for a safety review if quantities are expected to exceed the above limits.
- Keep all chemical containers that are not in active use properly capped.

- Do not store any empty or full chemical bottles or containers on the laboratory floor without proper containment.
- Do not store flammables in standard refrigerators, freezers, or cold rooms.
- Do not keep peroxide formers, such as ethers, beyond the expiration date printed on the label.
- Restrict the container size to one gallon for all flammable liquids (e.g., liquids with a flash point less than 100°F). Flammable liquids received in original approved containers, which are of 5 gallons or less capacity, are exempt from this requirement.
- Do not dispense by gravity, any flammable liquids in quantities of one gallon or more. Use approved pumps taking suction from the top of the container.
- Collect hazardous waste in appropriate containers and transfer to the designated Hazardous Waste Storage Room within three working days.

Electrical Safety

- Replace or report promptly any defective or damaged wiring or equipment.
- Keep all wiring away from general traffic areas and secure properly to prevent falls or trips.
- Do not use extension cords as a substitute for permanent wiring.
- Plug heavy equipment like refrigerators or freezers directly into an outlet.
- Maintain proper clearances between electrical equipment and hazardous chemical storage.

Fire/Heat and Smoke Detectors

- Smoke detectors are installed in your area to save life and property. If these devices are covered by plastic or other objects, report the condition to Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) and Facilities Operations and Development (FOD).

Emergency Exits

- Emergency exits are provided in all buildings. Report if any exit is blocked by storage or by snow or ice. Fire-rated doors or smoke-barrier doors protect people and property in case of fire. Report to EMFP and FOD if

you discover that any such door is damaged or not working properly.

Doorstops, Wedges, Hold-Open Devices

- The use of doorstops, wedges, and certain types of hold-open devices are not permitted by the Ohio Fire Code.
- Where such devices are used to accomplish tasks such as environmental services-related activities, moving furniture or materials through the doors, etc., they must be promptly removed once the task is completed.
- Report use of such devices on a permanent basis in your area.
- Emergency Management and Fire Prevention must be consulted before installing a permanent hold-open device on any means of egress doors.
- Any individual or department creating a fire code violation by employing the use of unapproved doorstops, wedges or hold-open devices is responsible for any fire or life safety hazards created by such use.

Workplace fire safety conditions are evaluated on a regular basis to ensure compliance with applicable fire codes. Ohio State facilities are regularly inspected by the State of Ohio fire code-enforcing and -accrediting agencies. The Ohio Fire Code requires that all fire and life safety systems, including fire detection and alarms, sprinklers, fire hydrants, fire pumps and others, be inspected, maintained, and tested regularly.

While these features are inspected by professionals, routine walk-through inspections by building occupants are of extreme importance. For instance, a temporarily stored material in the exit passage may become permanent, creating a life safety hazard, if not immediately addressed. Therefore, every individual should know and check their areas and activities for fire safety. Use the "Fire Drill Checklist." Always contact EMFP for assistance or appropriate corrective measures.

COMPRESSED GASES AND CRYOGENIC LIQUIDS

All compressed gases and cryogenic liquids should be stored, handled, and used in accordance with the requirements of the applicable Ohio Fire Code, Ohio State's Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations to minimize the hazards of fire, explosion and personal injury. Each department or laboratory storing or using compressed gases and cryogenic liquids should, as a minimum, comply with all the applicable safety requirements of this guide.

Compressed Gas (CG) means gases and mixtures of gases stored under pressure in cylinders. CG can be grouped mainly as liquefied gases (LG), nonliquefied gases (NLG), or dissolved gases (DG). Cylinders containing compressed gas are used every day on campus without incident, but these gas cylinders easily may become a serious hazard if mishandled or stored improperly. A cylinder with a broken valve easily can take off like an uncontrolled rocket or a pinwheel, bounding around the room and breaking brick walls. Report any damaged cylinder or valve immediately to Environmental Health & Safety (EHS, 614-292-1284) and the supplier.

Many compressed gases are toxic. They could cause various health problems depending on the specific gas, its concentration, the length of exposure and the route of exposure. Contact between the skin or eye and liquefied gases in liquid form can freeze tissue and result in a burn-like injury. With the exception of oxygen and air (19.5% O₂), possibly the greatest hazard to the user of CG is asphyxiation. All gases are asphyxiants. If suddenly released, especially cryogenics (liquefied gases at very low temperatures, having boiling points below -150°C or -238°F) such as liquid nitrogen can expand up to 700 times and displace all breathing oxygen, presenting a serious asphyxiation hazard. It also can create a highly visible fog (because of condensation of moisture in the air) that may obscure the emergency exit path.

To promote safety of life and property, all compressed gases and cryogenic liquids must be stored, handled and used in accordance with the requirements of the applicable Ohio Fire Code, NFPA 45, Ohio State Life Safety Policy, and the Ohio State Chemical Hygiene

Plan (CHP) to minimize the hazards of fire, explosion and personal injury. Each department or laboratory storing or using compressed gases and cryogenic liquids should, as a minimum, ensure that:

- All employees have adequate knowledge and training regarding safety and first aid procedures for gases being used or handled. Employees should be provided with and encouraged to read and follow the instructions on the warning labels, review applicable Safety Bulletins and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for specific gases.
- All individuals working on or near CG systems wear eye protection at all times and wear protective gloves, particularly, when handling cylinders containing cryogenic (super cold) gases.
- The maximum number of cylinders in a laboratory is limited to a two-month supply. Cylinders not "in use" are not to be stored in the laboratory. A single cylinder secured alongside the cylinder in use as the reserve cylinder is considered "in use." Flammable compressed gas cylinders (e.g., acetylene, butane, ethylene, hydrogen, methylamine, vinyl chloride) in laboratories are limited only to those in current use. The maximum quantities of compressed gases and cryogenic liquids never should exceed those specified by the Ohio Fire Code or other applicable fire codes. When noncompliance is identified during lab safety audit or fire code inspection, Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) and Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) should work with the appropriate department manager to resolve this issue.
- Excess cylinders and tanks are stored in a separate ventilated room approved for that use. All cylinders (in service or storage, full or empty) are:
 - Adequately secured with chains or straps positioned around the upper third of the cylinder, or by proper nesting to prevent falling or being knocked over.
 - Protected with valve protective caps in place until the gas is about to be used.
 - Never stored in any portion of an exit or common corridor, elevator, or in space under the stairway. A cryogenic container (CGC) should not be located such that it could prevent safe egress in the event of accidental release of their contents unless a second means of access to an exit is available from a laboratory work area.
 - Stored away from elevators, staircases or main traffic areas to avoid dangerous impediments.

- Promptly moved to their designated storage area once delivered.
- Removed within one day, when placed in the hallways for pickup.
- Moved with a suitable hand cart and never allowed to be dropped or banged together violently.
- Kept away from fire, heat and spark-producing operations.
- Grouped according to their properties. Do not store flammable gases next to exits or oxygen cylinders.
- Stored such that flammable gases are separate from oxidizing gases, and empty cylinders are separate from the full cylinders. Note: oxidizing gases contain oxygen at higher than atmospheric concentrations (more than 23-25%). Common examples are nitrogen oxides, halogen gases such as chlorine and fluorine.
- Properly marked with the name of the contained gas. Don't accept unidentified cylinders and don't rely on color codes. Read the label.
- Lecture bottle-sized cylinders also must be secured properly. Such cylinders with content health hazard 2 without physiological warning properties, health hazard 3 or 4, and pyrophoric (spontaneously ignitable) always must be stored in constantly ventilated hood/enclosure.
- Each department or laboratory should ensure that:
 - A CG cylinder is never used without a pressure-reducing regulator that safely reduces the cylinder pressure to the required level.
 - Only those regulators are used that have both a high-pressure gauge and a low-pressure gauge to be able to monitor both the pressure in the cylinder and in the system.
 - Never use a pressure gauge greater than 75% of its maximum face reading. Immediately replace any gauge whose pointer does not go back to its zero point when pressure is removed.
 - Cylinder valves are cleaned of any dust or dirt before attaching proper regulators.
 - Cylinder valves are closed properly and the protective caps are replaced before returning the cylinders.
 - The adjusting screw is released on the regulator before opening cylinder valve.
 - An adaptor never is used between a cylinder and a pressure-reducing regulator.
 - Regulators never are interchanged. Some regulators are only for specific gases.
- Excessive force never is used to connect a CGA connection.
- Safety devices in cylinder valves or regulators never are tampered with.
- Any damaged cylinder or valve is immediately reported to the supplier and to the campus emergency number.
- Any aid, such as pipe dope or Teflon tape, is never used to connect a regulator to a cylinder.
- The users are trained to stand to the side of the regulator when opening cylinder valve and open the cylinder valve slowly.
- The users are instructed never to transfer CGs from one container to another, refilled or sucked back into the cylinder.
- Separate empty and full cylinders during storage. Mark empty cylinders "empty" or "MT." Note that cylinder with a pressure gauge reading of 0 psig (0 kPa) is not really empty. It still contains gas at atmospheric pressure. Gauge pressure = total gas pressure inside cylinder - atmospheric pressure (14.7 psi or 101.4 kPa).
- Cryogenic liquid (liquefied gases at very low temperatures, having boiling points below -150°C or -238°F) tanks are checked periodically to ensure that they:
 - Have not lost vacuum or insulation. A cold outside jacket of the tank indicates the need for tank service.
 - Are checked at the neck of the tank opening for any ice accumulation to prevent any blockage and subsequent pressure buildup within the container.
 - Are checked for sabotage of the pressure relief devices on the tank.
 - The following two safety precautions must be taken with cryogenic gases:
 - Use protective gloves and eye wear when handling cylinders containing cryogenic (super-cold) gases.
 - Where cryogenic gases are vented or released at a rate more than a few cubic centimeters of gas per minute inside an area, adequate 24-hour ventilation is required. Install continuous oxygen monitor(s) with a "low oxygen" alarm in such areas for safety.

CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, AND DEMOLITION

Fires during construction, renovation, or demolition operations are an ever-present threat. Inherently, greater

fire potential exists on these sites because of the presence of large quantities of combustible materials and debris, together with such ignition sources as temporary heating devices, hot work operations, open fires, and smoking by construction workers. Safety of the occupants during these projects is of great concern. Change in an exit route or restricted exit, storage of materials in the corridors, and restricted access to the emergency response equipment are some of the important things to look for during these projects. If you notice any unsafe condition, report it promptly to the department managing the project and Emergency Management and Fire Prevention.

COOKING APPLIANCES AND STERNO HEAT

Cooking-related appliances utilizing gas, electric or sterno heat, toasters, toaster ovens, hot plates, electric fry pans, woks, and crock pots are not permitted to be used inside of any university building unless such use is necessary for conducting university business. Permission should be obtained from the appropriate school's or unit's administrative office after consulting with Emergency Management and Fire Prevention. Where one or more of these appliances are used, appropriate safety precautions should be taken as outlined below.

In facilities where the use of sterno heat is permitted, the following requirements must be complied with:

- When in use, sternos must be attended at all times.
- Keep all combustible materials, such as napkins and paper plates, away from any heat sources to avoid overheating or fire.
- Appropriate metal or ceramic trays must be used under the sterno cans to prevent accidental contact with any combustible material.
- Approved means of fire extinguishment capability.
- Ensure that two individuals who are trained in the use of a fire extinguisher are designated to monitor any unsafe condition. These individuals must not leave the area until all open flames are extinguished.

DECORATIONS: HOLIDAYS, CANDLES, OPEN FLAMES

To prevent fires related to decorations and lighting during holidays or special events and to ensure compliance with the Ohio Fire Code, each school or unit administrator or Building Coordinator should ensure compliance with the following specific fire prevention and safety requirements. All university students, staff, and faculty should comply with the following requirements.

Holiday Trees, Wreaths, Decorations

- Decorations and lighting must not be placed so as to obscure emergency exit paths or signs.
- All decorative materials should either be noncombustible or flame resistant or treated with an approved fire retardant in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, NFPA 701 Testing criteria, and the Ohio State Life Safety Policy.
- Look for "non-combustible" or "flame resistant" labels on the decoration packages. If the decorations are to be re-used, retain the original packaging.
- Live trees, natural wreaths, and other live greens are not permitted indoors.
- Use only flame-retardant artificial trees and decorations in appropriate locations (flame retardant information can be found on the packaging).
- Trees or decorations must not block or obstruct exits, aisles, corridors, vision panels on the hallway doors, stairwells, fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull boxes, exit signs, evacuation floor plans, and other emergency equipment/information.
- No trees or wreaths of any kind are permitted in laboratories, but a wreath on the exterior of a laboratory door is permissible.
- Place all decorations and combustibles at least 3 feet away from sources of heat (e.g., radiators, lights).
- All decorations with powered electricity must be turned off when unattended or before leaving the area for the day.

Holiday Lighting

- Carefully inspect new and previously used electrical light strings and replace damaged items before plugging lights in.

- All holiday lighting and electrical decorations should be Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed and should be plugged directly into wall-mounted outlets or UL-listed power-strips. Look for a UL symbol on the equipment. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.
- Extension cords should not be used for holiday lighting. Instead, use UL-listed outlet powerstrips with built-in fuse or circuit breaker protection.
- Electrical wires should not be extended through windows or doors or under carpeting.
- Lighted candles or lanterns should not be permitted in any university facilities.
- Electrical light bulbs should not be decorated with paper or other combustible materials unless flame resistant.
- All lighting must be turned off when unattended or before leaving the area for the day.

Removal of Decorations

- All decorations and lightings should be removed promptly upon the completion of an event or within seven calendar days after the end of the holiday period.

Life Safety Measures for Departmental Holiday Events

- Avoid the use of emergency exit corridors for seating and tables. If these spaces must be used, Emergency Management and Fire Prevention must first be consulted to ensure safety of the occupants.

Candles, Incense, Open Flames

- Candles, incense, and other objects that produce open flames or burning (outside of approved kitchens and laboratories) are prohibited in all university facilities.

DOOR WEDGES AND OTHER HOLD-OPEN DEVICES

University buildings are equipped with fire-rated doors and smoke-barrier doors. These doors prevent smoke and heat from traveling up stairwells and along corridors.

Facilities Operations and Development maintains these doors, including all hardware, in good working condition.

A seemingly harmless door wedge used to hold open a fire door represents a serious fire/life safety hazard and fire code violation. Moreover, the inappropriate use of door wedges can cause damage to doors, resulting in significant expenditures for repair. Therefore, the use of doorstops, wedges and other hold-open devices, which are not permitted by the Ohio Fire Code, is prohibited in all university buildings.

Never prop open fire doors. Fire doors are to remain closed. If your operational needs call for a particular fire-rated or smoke-barrier door to remain open, consult Emergency Management and Fire Prevention for appropriate resolution.

All fire-rated or smoke-barrier doors that are approved to remain open during normal operation are equipped with electrically powered magnets that hold them in open position and release (close) automatically during a fire alarm. Never block a fire-rated or smoke-barrier door from closing.

MAGNETICALLY LOCKED EXIT DOORS

Several university buildings are equipped with exit doors that are electronically locked for security reasons. This type of lock allows people to exit the building safely during fire alarm emergencies. Check that all magnetically locked exit doors in your area automatically release (open) during an alarm to allow for your safe egress.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

All departments, including laboratories, should comply with the university's electrical safety procedures outlined in this guide to minimize the hazards of fire because of improper use of electricity and electrical equipment. These procedures include restrictions on the use of portable electrical space heating devices, extension cords, cooking appliances utilizing gas, electric or sterno heat, toasters, toaster ovens, hot plates, electric fry pans, woks, and crock pots.

Any staff observing any hazardous electrical conditions promptly should report them to their supervisors or other appropriate department(s) for corrective action.

To protect building occupants and property from the direct (electric shock injury) and indirect (heat, fire and explosion) hazards of electricity, each school/unit should comply with the following electrical safety procedures.

- Use equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Never bypass electrical interlocks. Calibrate heating equipment regularly as required.
- Post procedures for critical equipment, including "on-off procedures" and warning signs on or near the equipment. Clearly identify the equipment to be left "on" when the laboratory is unoccupied (e.g., by posting on the lab door).
- All defective/damaged wiring (e.g., frayed, cut wires, broken/defective plug or switch) or equipment should be promptly reported to Emergency Management and Fire Prevention and Facilities Operations and Development (FOD).
- To prevent fires because of electrical overload on fixtures and wiring, do not use:
 - Extension cords and flexible cords as a substitute for permanent wiring. Do not extend cords through windows or doors or under carpeting.
 - Multiple outlet strips, other than for computer systems. Use strips with built-in fuse or circuit breaker protection, having a minimum 12/3 (gauge/wires) labels, maximum length of 6 feet, and Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) listed for the use.
 - Cube taps for multiple connections from a single outlet. These types of devices are not permitted within the university.
 - Multiple plugs in interconnection. In other words, never connect an additional plug(s) into the main plug that is inserted in the outlet or a powerstrip to connect multiple devices.
- Secure all wiring, cords, cables, and conduits. Keep them away from general traffic areas to prevent falls or trips.
- Allow appropriate clear spaces between electrical equipment and storage of flammable combustible materials. A minimum clearance of 36 inches should be maintained between electrical service equipment and any other storage to allow easy access for emergency use (42 inches of clearance is required for voltage level higher than 120 volts). Never drape combustibles (e.g., cloth, paper) over equipment.
- Laboratory electrical motors should be of induction type, i.e., totally enclosed fan-cooled because the

sparks emitted from brush-type motors can cause fire in a flammable environment. This information can be found on the equipment label.

- Dedicated circuits and proper grounding may be required for equipment, such as refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners. Do not use extension cords with this equipment. Consult with Facilities Operations and Development to check for the adequacy of electrical power or circuits before purchasing, installing, or relocating such equipment.
- Cooking-related appliances utilizing gas, electric or sterno heat, toasters, toaster ovens, hot plates, electric fry pans, woks and crock pots are not permitted to be used inside any university building unless such use is necessary for conducting university business. Written permission should be obtained from appropriate school's or unit's administrative office after consulting with FOD. Where one or more of these appliances are used, appropriate precautions should be taken as outlined in this guide.
- Portable electrical space heating devices generally are not permitted in any university building. Review specific restrictions and guidelines about space heaters later in this document.
- If electrical work is required in any area, it should be submitted to FOD for review and/or cost estimate and approval.
- Promptly report any unsafe hazardous electrical conditions to the department supervisor or FOD.

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Workplace fire safety conditions are evaluated on a regular basis to ensure compliance with applicable fire codes. Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP), the State of Ohio, and the Columbus Division of Fire regularly inspect university facilities. The fire code requires that all fire and life safety systems, including fire detection and alarm, sprinklers, fire hydrants, fire pumps and others be inspected, maintained, and tested regularly. While these features are inspected by the professional, routine walk-through inspections by building occupants are of extreme importance.

For instance, temporarily stored material in the exit passage may become permanent, creating a life safety hazard, if not immediately addressed. Therefore, every individual should know and check their areas and

activities for fire safety. Use the “Fire Drill Checklist.” Always contact EMFP for assistance or appropriate corrective measures.

FURNISHINGS AND DECORATIONS

Certain furnishings and decorations ignite very easily and quickly release a high amount of heat. Any item of upholstered furniture, wastebaskets, mattresses, curtains, draperies, surface coverings (carpet, wall and ceiling), acoustical, and other materials used for decoration can contribute fuel to fire. Therefore, in health-care facilities, such items are required to be resistant to ignition by both cigarettes and small flames. Noncombustible or flame-resistant materials that are appropriate for use are available on the market.

Departments purchasing new furnishings and decorations and Ohio State Purchasing must ensure compliance with the following requirements of the Ohio State Life Safety Policy: (1) furnishings and decorations are noncombustible or flame resistant in accordance with the appropriate NFPA or other equivalent standard, (2) all upholstered furniture, including sofas and mattresses, comply at least with California Technical Bulletins (CAL TB) 117 and 133 for unsprinklered general assembly areas, and (3) all other decorative materials comply with NFPA 701 standard.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND CHEMICALS

Hazardous materials and chemicals should be stored, handled and used in accordance with the requirements of the Ohio Fire Code and other applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards. To ensure uniform compliance university wide, each laboratory or other areas using hazardous materials, such as flammable and combustible liquids, oxidizing materials, radioactive materials, unstable (reactive) chemicals, highly toxic materials and poisonous gases, at a minimum should comply with all the applicable safety requirements of this guide.

Extensive use of flammable solvents in laboratories and other areas presents a potentially serious fire and explosion hazard. Even a very small quantity involved in the fire significantly can increase the potential of fire spreading. To ensure uniform compliance university

wide, each laboratory or other areas using hazardous materials should:

- Maintain an up-to-date inventory of hazardous chemicals by types and quantity, as required by the Ohio Fire Code and the Ohio State Life Safety Policy, Ohio Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA Title III), State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
- Work with Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) to ensure that the initial inventory is created and updated as required.
- Restrict the container size to one gallon for all flammable liquids (e.g., alcohol, toluene, acetone, benzene) with a flash point lower than 100°F. Flammable liquids received in original approved containers that are of 5 gallons or less capacity are exempt from this requirement.
- All chemical containers that are not in active use should be capped properly.
- No chemical containers should be stored on a laboratory floor without proper containment.
- All flammable and combustible liquids containers should be stored in a cool area, away from sunlight or any sources of heat or ignition, and away from any corrosives or oxidizers.
- Flammable liquids not in active use should be stored in an approved flammable storage cabinet. Storage of flammable liquids is not permitted outside of an approved flammable storage cabinet in laboratories constructed or renovated after December 2001.
- Storage cabinets used in laboratories should not be required to be vented for fire protection purposes. Where vented, performance-based requirements of NFPA 30 should be complied with.
- Flammable Liquids Dispensing and Transferring: Dispensing and transfer of these liquids can present a static electricity hazard, depending on their ability to generate static electricity, how well they conduct electricity (conductivity), and their flash point. Thus, the level of hazard depends on factors such as the type of containers, the type of liquids (flash point, vapor pressure) being transferred, working environment (temperature), and the rate of liquid transfer.

- To reduce your risk of injury during such activity, all flammable liquids dispensing and transfer should comply with the following requirements:
 - Flammable liquids in containers larger than 4 liters (1.1 gallons) should not be dispensed by gravity, whether the containers are conductive or not. Approved pumps taking suction from the top of the container should be utilized. Containers with a bottom spout are acceptable but not recommended because of an increased risk of spill caused by a damaged spout.
 - Any transfer of flammable liquids between conductive containers larger than 4 liters (1.1 gallons) should be bonded and grounded. Note: transferring inflammable liquids from 4 liter (1.1 gallon) glass containers to any metal containers is relatively hazardous, and such a practice is not considered prudent. Therefore, this should be avoided.
 - Transfer of flammable liquids is not permitted in any exit access corridor.
 - Transfer of flammable liquids to smaller containers from bulk stock containers not exceeding 19 liters (5 gallons) should be performed only in a lab hood or an approved inside area, and in an adequately ventilated area that must not allow the accumulations of flammable vapor/air mixtures to exceed 25% of the lower flammable limit.
 - Where practicable, dispensing operations should be separated from the storage area because of the exposure of greater quantities to the hazards of dispensing operations.
 - Any transfer of more than 19 liters (5 gallons) of flammable liquids is not allowed inside the building except in an area specifically designed and protected for dispensing such liquids.
 - Consult Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) for any activity that you think may not comply with these requirements to determine appropriate strategy to control a fire hazard.
- Collect hazardous waste in appropriate containers as specified by EHS. Once a container is full, promptly contact EHS to schedule a pickup and transfer to the designated Hazardous Waste Store Room within three working days.
- Limit the quantities of flammable liquids to 10 gallons per laboratory and combustible liquids to 30 gallons per laboratory. In cases where a common fire area is

divided into multiple laboratories, each laboratory may have to comply with more stringent quantity restrictions. When noncompliance is identified during a lab safety audit or fire code inspection, EMFP will work with the appropriate department manager to resolve this issue in accordance with the applicable fire code requirements.

- Ensure that radioactive materials are stored, handled and used only by the trained authorized users to keep exposure “As Low As Reasonably Achievable” (ALARA) and to minimize the property damage by radioactive materials resulting from fires and explosions. The users of such materials also should comply with the requirements of the university’s radiation safety policies and procedures.

LECTURE HALLS AND PLACES OF ASSEMBLY

The Ohio Fire Code classifies lecture halls, multi-purpose rooms, and places of assembly as a “life hazard use group” because of safety concerns for a large number of people in these areas. In case of fire, people must be able to evacuate these areas safely and in a reasonable time frame.

To ensure safe and timely evacuation, changes in furniture setups must be pre-planned and approved by the university. Your Building Coordinator or a designee reviews and approves all setup plans in consultation with Emergency Management and Fire Prevention as needed to ensure compliance with the Ohio Fire Code.

Rearrangements of setups are prohibited without the proper authorization. The individual requesting the setup is responsible for ensuring that the approved setup is not rearranged after approval. In any case, the Maximum Occupancy Load for all Places of Assembly must be adhered to, without exception. Exceeding the occupancy load by one person is cause for the function to be suspended until the legal occupancy load is achieved.

SPACE HEATERS

Portable space heaters can pose a major workplace fire safety hazard. Use of unapproved or unsafe space heaters – or use of space heaters in an inappropriate or unsafe manner – presents a significant fire risk. Also, if the size of the heater is too big for the area, it can be a

source of pollution, energy waste, and fire. Therefore, to ensure safety of life and property from the risks of space heater use at Ohio State, all students, faculty, and staff or visitors are required to comply with the following requirements of Ohio State's Fire and Life Safety Compliance Guide in accordance with the Ohio State Life Safety Policy.

- Portable space heaters are not permitted in any university-owned or -leased facility unless Facilities Operations and Development (FOD) or the landlord of a leased facility has approved such use as a temporary measure to address inadequate heating by the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Space heaters should not be used as a substitute for any required repair or maintenance of the HVAC system. Where approved, only electric space heaters that meet the safety criteria are allowed.
- Any non-UL-rated space heaters are not permitted for use on university premises.
- Space heaters of any kind are strictly prohibited in all Ohio State laboratories, in all areas in health-care occupancies accredited by the Joint Commission, (except, under certain circumstances, in non-sleeping staff or employee areas only), and in all areas primarily used for the storage of combustible materials such as office stationery, drapes or chemicals.
- Where the use of an electrical space heater (in any previously approved area) may present an undue danger to life or property, the authority having jurisdiction, or an Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) representative may prohibit such use. Any heating unit or its use that does not comply with the Ohio State Life Safety Policy must be confiscated.
- The user of a space heater ultimately is responsible for any hazard or fire code violation created as a result of unauthorized or inappropriate use.
- If a space heater is to be used, the following safety criteria must be met, and operational safety precautions must be followed:

Safety Criteria for Space Heaters

All electric space heaters must meet the following criteria:

- The equipment is Underwriter Laboratories (UL) approved for the use for which it is designed.
- The equipment has a sealed element and does not produce any flames or fumes or use any fuel.
- The equipment is equipped to turn off automatically when tilted or turned over.
- The heating elements cannot exceed 100°C or 212°F.
- Oil-filled electric space heaters are recommended over any other types of heaters because they have the best safety record.

Operational Safety Precautions for Space Heaters

Students, staff, faculty, and visitors should comply with the following operational safety precautions:

- Maintain a minimum clearance of three feet (or one meter) at all times between stored materials and the heating device.
- Never leave the heating unit "on" when unattended.
- Plug the heating unit directly into an outlet with sufficient capacity.
- Never use an extension cord with a heater because it may overheat and cause a risk of fire.
- Check the heating unit before each use to ensure that all indicator lights are working. Remove the defective unit from service immediately.
- Ensure that the power cord is properly plugged in and is not damaged, crushed by objects, or covered under carpet or rug.
- Promptly report any unsafe or hazardous conditions to EMFP and FOD.
- Contact Emergency Management and Fire Prevention for any space heater questions.

SPECIAL PUBLIC EVENTS

Exhibitions, Vendor Fairs, Parties, Carnivals, Picnics

To prevent fires during indoor and outdoor public events such as exhibitions, vendor fairs, parties, carnivals, picnics, etc., and to ensure compliance with Ohio Fire Code requirements, each school or unit administrator or Building Coordinator should comply with the following

fire prevention and safety requirements for on-campus indoor and outdoor public events. All such events should be organized with appropriate consultation with the Department of Public Safety. Compliance with all applicable fire safety requirements for decorations and lightings and electrical safety procedures outlined in this guide is required.

Requirements for Indoor Events:

- Use or storage of propane cylinders and propane or charcoal grills is prohibited.
- Implement these fire and life safety measures as a minimum for all indoor events:
 - Maintain clear aisle width and keep all emergency exits accessible at all times. Avoid the use of emergency exit corridors for seating and tables. If these spaces must be used, Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) must be consulted first to ensure safety of the building occupants.
 - Observe maximum occupancy limits for a specific area.
 - Maintain good housekeeping and areas free of clutter.
 - Follow the applicable electrical safety procedures and comply with all applicable fire safety requirements for decorations and lightings outlined above.
 - Have readily available at least two ABC-type fire extinguishers of minimum 10-pound capacity to extinguish small fires. Contact Facilities Operations and Development (FOD) or EMFP to obtain the needed fire extinguishers.
 - Ensure that at least two individuals, trained in the use of a fire extinguisher, are designated to monitor any unsafe conditions for the duration of the event. Contact the EMFP office for specific training needs.
 - In case of a fire, call **9-1-1**. Do not attempt to extinguish a large or spreading fire.
- Cooking appliances utilizing gas, electric or sterno heat, toasters, toaster ovens, hot plates, electric fry pans, woks, and crock pots are not permitted to be used inside of any university building unless such use is necessary for conducting university business. Permission should be obtained from the appropriate school's or unit's administrative office after consulting with EMFP. Where one or more of these appliances

are used, appropriate safety precautions should be taken.

- In facilities where the use of sterno heat is permitted, compliance with the following requirements is mandatory:
 - When in use, sternos must be attended at all times.
 - Keep all combustible materials, such as napkins and paper plates, at a safe distance to avoid overheating or fire.
 - Appropriate metal or ceramic trays should be used under the sterno cans to prevent accidental contact with any combustible material.
 - The person preparing the flaming foods shall have a wet cloth towel immediately available for use in smothering the flames in the event of an emergency.
 - A 10-pound ABC-type fire extinguisher should be readily available and located within a 20-foot distance to extinguish small fires. Use the fire extinguisher fact sheet.
 - Ensure that two individuals, trained in the use of a fire extinguisher, are designated to monitor any unsafe condition. These individuals must not leave the area until all open flames are extinguished.

Requirements for Outdoor Events

- In case of a fire, follow the campus emergency procedure. Do not attempt to extinguish a large or spreading fire.
- The use of propane cooking equipment is prohibited on porches, balconies, or any other portion of a building. All such equipment should be used at least 15' away from any building with consenting prior approval through EMFP.
- Do not store any spare propane gas cylinder in any part of the building.
- Charcoal grills are not permitted except in preapproved recreational facilities in consultation with EMFP.
- Keep all combustible materials away from grills to avoid any fire. Have 10-pound ABC-type fire extinguishers available to extinguish small fires.
- Ensure that at least two individuals, who are trained in the use of fire extinguishers, are available during any event. These individuals should be responsible for monitoring any unsafe condition.

- Where tents are to be installed outside on campus grounds, appropriate permits should be obtained from the State of Ohio or the City of Columbus, and fees must be paid. In this case, the State Fire Official, Columbus Fire Inspector, or EMFP also may choose to inspect the location before and during the event. Contact Emergency Management and Fire Prevention for assistance in coordinating approval.
- Open burning, bonfires, fire pits, fire rings, charcoal grills, or similar fires are not permitted anywhere on campus.

STORAGE SAFETY

Storage of materials, equipment and furniture in corridors and stairwells used for an emergency exit can present an impediment and falls and trips hazards to both building occupants and responding firefighters. Storage in corridors also may block installed emergency equipment such as fire extinguishers, safety showers and fire hose connections. Inappropriate storage height in sprinklered areas can hinder effective firefighting. To avoid these problems, the following should be complied with regard to storage:

Storage in Egress Corridors

Corridors leading to exits or any other similar elements of the means of egress should be maintained in a safe condition, available for immediate utilization and free of all obstructions at all times. Obstructions such as tables, display cases, holiday decorations, powered equipment, display boards, signs, coat racks and other movable equipment that may interfere with firefighting access are prohibited. Storage of combustible, flammable or other hazardous materials, including compressed gas cylinders and cryogenic liquid tanks, in any portion of an exit, elevator, or under the stairway is prohibited. Chairs, tables, and other furniture or equipment in each room must be arranged to provide ready access to each egress door.

Safe Ceiling Clearance for Storage

To allow for effective firefighting, the individual departments should ensure that a 2' ceiling clearance is always maintained when storing materials on shelves. Any storage flush with the room walls is exempt as long

as such storage does not present other safety hazards (e.g., storage that is unstable or very close to an electrical fixture). All new furniture or equipment, including storage racks or shelves, should allow a minimum of two feet clear distance between the ceiling and the top surface.

PROCEDURES

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Introduction

This general procedure has been developed to promote the safety of people with disabilities and all other building occupants during emergency situations, including fire alarm evacuation. It also may be used with appropriate modifications in areas where patients may be undergoing medical procedures and where halting any active patient care may pose an increased risk to the patient. In these cases, those who are directly involved in patient care should ensure that all necessary communications, notifications, and safety measures outlined in this procedure are implemented in addition to any department-specific measures.

The evacuation route must be predetermined!

Procedure

Individual departments should ensure that the following general procedure is followed as a minimum requirement and should assign two volunteers per disabled person. Any specific changes must be reviewed and approved by the Building Coordinator in conjunction with Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP).

Evacuation Assistants should:

- Follow the building-specific Building Emergency Action Plan (BEAP) until specifically instructed otherwise by the Responding Fire Department (RFD).
- Note: The RFD may call for a different procedure depending on their judgment and the nature of the emergency.
- Identify any people with disabilities by observation and inquiry. Ask if anyone is in need of assistance.

- Never attempt to move or evacuate any person using stairs or using elevators unless authorized by RFD.
- Report the presence, exact number, and specific location of any person with a disability in the building to RFD.

Responding Fire Department should:

- Once on the scene, the responding fire department should coordinate all evacuations for people with disabilities, if necessary. Everyone must follow the instructions of the responding fire department.
- Elevators typically return to the ground floor when a fire alarm is activated and then can be operated only by use of a firefighters' keyed switch. In case of fire emergencies requiring an evacuation, elevators should be used only as per instructions of the responding fire department. In the event of non-fire emergencies requiring an evacuation, emergency responders may use elevators, if it is safe.

Evacuation Assistants and/or Floor Evacuation Coordinators should:

- Exercise caution to avoid falls and trips while assisting the person with a disability.
- First remove the people with a disability from the area of immediate danger and then move them carefully to a primary (predetermined) waiting area, usually the corridor by the nearest exit stair.
- Important: Do not lift any person unless you are specifically trained and it is required by your department-specific procedure. Provide a plain brief note to a person having a hearing disability, if necessary. Offer your elbow to any visually impaired person to guide him or her to safety. Communicate as needed, to ensure safe evacuation.
- If the primary waiting area is not safe (e.g., if you see or smell smoke or fire), then move to the predetermined secondary designated waiting area.

Evacuation Assistants and/or Fire Wardens should:

- Position yourself and the person with a disability on one side of the corridor near the stair door such that traffic is not obstructed. Caution: Unless otherwise directed by the responding fire department, buddies should use only the Safe Waiting Area specified in the Building Emergency Evacuation Plan (BEAP).

- Do not attempt to walk the person up or down the stairwell.
- Note: Stairway evacuation of wheelchair users should be conducted only by trained professionals such as the responding fire department, and only after major traffic has passed. Discourage any person with mobility impairment from using stairs without assistance, even though they may be able to go up and down stairs easily. They may not be able to properly operate door locks, latches, and other devices.
- Keep the stair doors closed at all times. Caution: If the stairs doors are left open, the smoke may enter the stairwell.
- Once people with disabilities are positioned at the safe predetermined waiting area,
 - Evacuate and report to the responding fire department or to the Command Post, if set up.
 - Report the exact location and number of people with disabilities to the responding fire department and/or other responders. Give them the disabled person's cell phone number.
 - Wait at the designated assembly area or near the Command Post, as directed by the emergency responder, to provide any information as required.
 - Follow-up with the responding fire department if people with disabilities who were reported as waiting in the building have been contacted or if they are being assisted.
 - Follow-up if the emergency seems to be of a continuing nature or lasting for more than 10 minutes (for low-rise buildings) or 15 minutes (for high-rise buildings).

FIRE SAFETY RESOURCES

While you can always call Emergency Management and Fire Prevention (EMFP) for assistance in fire safety matters, valuable fire and life safety fact sheets are available on the internet. EMFP recommends that you use the information available from the following two sources:

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) website at [nfpa.org](https://www.nfpa.org) » Public Education » Safety Tips Sheets.
- U.S. Fire Administration's website at [usfa.fema.gov](https://www.usfa.fema.gov).

Fact sheets on the NFPA website include:

- [Home escape planning](#): Learn the steps to create a home fire escape plan and putting it into practice.
- [Prepare for an emergency](#): Your family needs to be prepared because you won't have time to shop or search for supplies when a disaster strikes.
- [For people with disabilities](#): Ensure that people with disabilities are included in safety planning.
- [Electrical safety](#): Safety in the home and with circuit interrupters.
- [Fire protection equipment](#): Automatic sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms.
- [Homeland Security](#): Free access to NFPA 1600 and other information and resources.
- [Mine fires and explosions](#): Mining and mineral processing facilities represent significant fire and explosion exposures.
- [Seasonal safety](#): Fireworks, Christmas trees, grilling, Halloween safety, winter and summer safety.
- [Vehicles/gas/fuel safety](#): Gasoline at home, propane, service station safety, and more.
- [Wild land fires](#): Learn to protect your family and community from wild land fires.

Related Topics on the U.S. Fire Administration's website include the following:

- [Candle Fire Safety](#)
- [Electrical Fire Safety](#)
- [Heating Fire Safety](#)
- [Carbon Monoxide Poisoning](#)
- [Wildfires](#)

Other Links of Interest:

- [American Red Cross](#) (disaster services)
- [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) (portable generator hazards)
- [National Candle Association](#) (fire safety)
- [ready.gov](#) (preparing Americans for all kinds of emergencies)
- [Older Adults](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)

Building Information		
Common Building Name	Official Building Address	
Departments/Units Located in the Facility		
# of Building Emergency Egress/Exterior Doors	# of Stairways out of the Building	
Primary and Alternative Means of Notifying Occupants of a Fire or Emergency ☐ Building is equipped with horns and strobe lights ☐ Building fire alarm issues a preprogrammed voice message ☐ Building is equipped with an intercom system ☐ Other (describe):		
Primary and Alternative Means of Reporting Fire or Emergencies to the Fire Department ☐ Building is equipped with fire alarm monitoring ☐ Ohio State's Public Safety Dispatch Center (Blankenship Hall) ☐ Dial 9-1-1- ☐ Other (describe):		
# of Manual Fire Alarm Pull Boxes	Location of Closest Fire Hydrants	Location of Assembly Points
Building Emergency Action Plan (BEAP) is available to building occupants ☐ Yes ☐ No		BEAP Contact Person
Fire Drill Exercise		
Date/Time of Fire Drill Exercise	Notification Method Used	
Number of Occupants Evacuated	Weather Conditions	
Elapse Time to Evacuate (target 5 minutes)	Did identified sweepers confirm sweep of floor(s) and report to evacuation point? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
List issues, mistakes, or problems that occurred during this fire drill exercise.		
List action steps to address issues, mistakes, or problems listed above.		
Any evacuation routes blocked or exit doors unusable? ☐ Yes ☐ No		Was this a successful fire drill exercise? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Contact Information	
Name	Phone
Email	Date