

If a fire should occur...

- **CLOSE** the doors to stop the spread of the fire
- **SOUND** the alarm, alert others to the danger
- **GET OUT** of the building
- **NOTIFY** the fire department

DO NOT go back into the building or try to save your stuff.

Clothes, books and papers can be replaced-

YOU CAN'T!

LIVING WITH FIRE
A PROGRAM FOR CAMPUS AND STUDENT FIRE SAFETY

Living With Fire is a project to develop campus-oriented fire safety material. It will be made available, nationwide, through the US Fire Administration in November 2001.

Funding for this project was provided by the following organizations committed to reducing the tragic losses caused by fires involving students:

- American Cancer Society
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association
- National Fire Sprinkler Association
- NFPA International
- SimplexGrinnell
- United States Fire Administration
- University of Texas System

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Building Fire Safety Features

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Building Fire Safety Features Info Bulletin

Buildings are equipped with a variety of features that are designed to stop the spread of fire, detect it or suppress it. How do they work?

Doors...any door can help stop the spread of smoke or fire from one area to another. Some doors, such as fire doors in corridors or stairwells of residence halls for example, are designed to stand up to fire longer than those on an individual room. However, it is really important that these doors are **CLOSED** for them to work. A fire door that has been propped open is going to allow the fire and the smoke to spread away from the fire, putting a lot of other people in danger, possibly trapping and maybe killing them.



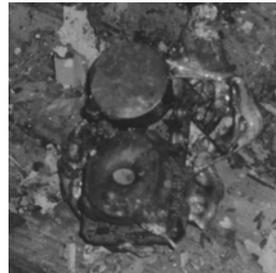
This fire started in the basement, traveled up the open stairway and killed five students on the second floor of this fraternity. ©NFPA 2001 Used with permission

Generally, if a door has a device that automatically closes the door, then it should not be propped open. Doors that should always remain closed when not being used are those on stairways. If the fire or smoke gets into a stairway, then that stairway has now been turned into a chimney. Now people trying to get out of the building can't use it, and they may become trapped above the fire-not a good place to be.

Updated 10/1/01

Smoke Alarm...also often known as smoke detectors, these devices are one of the best early-warning devices of a fire. They are designed to sense low levels of smoke and sound an alarm.

Some smoke alarms are what are known as "single station," or stand-alone devices. If they



This smoke alarm from a student's house couldn't do its job because it didn't have a battery.

go into alarm, only the one detector is activated, alerting people right around it. Others may be connected together, such as in a two-story house, and they will all sound an alarm at the same time. A third setup may be a fire alarm system,

such as in a residence hall, where a smoke alarm is connected to the building's fire alarm system.

No matter what type of setup you may have, no fire detector can do its job if it is disabled.

Whatever you do...

- LEAVE the batteries in the detector
- LEAVE the detector uncovered so it can "smell" the smoke
- LEAVE the detector on the wall or ceiling where it can do its job.

A lot of fire fatalities have occurred when the detector has been disabled.

Don't be one of them!

Sprinklers...fire sprinklers are a very effective method of putting out a fire quickly, before it has time to spread and put people in danger. Despite what you may see on television, usually only one or two sprinklers flow water-not every single sprinkler head opens up!

Sprinklers will operate fast, putting out the fire while it is small. Consider two recent fires at Hampshire College, one in an unsprinklered room that burned out an entire suite, compared to one that happened a

year later in a sprinklered residence hall. The second fire was controlled by the activation of the sprinkler system, and the damage was limited to the area around the stove.



Where's the smoke alarm? Under the ball cap, next to the halogen lamp that started the fire in this dorm. The sprinkler head was able to do its job, even though it was being used to hold up a piece of gym equipment!

The amount of water that flows from a sprinkler head is very small compared to the water coming from a fire hose. A sprinkler will generally flow 25 gallons per minute, while a fire hose will flow 150 gallons per minute or more! The damage in a fire involving a sprinkler head can be significantly less than in an unsprinklered property.

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