

FIRE / EXPLOSION

Description

A fire may include visible flames, smoke, or strong odors of burning. An explosion is caused by a rapid expansion of gas from chemical reactions or incendiary devices. The appropriate emergency action is for persons to evacuate the building quickly and safely and notify the Fire Department by dialing 911.

Immediate Action

- Activate nearest fire alarm pull station.
- Evacuate; if smoke is present, stay low to the floor.
- Watch out for falling debris; take cover and protect head.
- If you become trapped, tap on a wall or pipe to alert rescuers.
- Untrained persons should not attempt to rescue people who are inside a collapsed building. Wait for emergency personnel to arrive.
- Call 911 when safe to do so.

For occupants of the building:

- Close, but do not lock the doors to your immediate area as you leave
- EVACUATE the building via the nearest exit. Assist others in exiting the building
- DO NOT use elevators
- Avoid smoke-filled areas
- There are certain buildings, such as the Medical Center, that are defend in place buildings. If in doubt, ask your manager or professor if the building you are in is a defend in place building.

For persons evacuating from the immediate fire area:

- Feel door from top to bottom with the back of your hand. If it is hot, DO NOT proceed; go back.
- If door is cool, crouch low and open the door slowly. Close door quickly if smoke is present so you do not inhale it.
- If no smoke is present, exit the building via the nearest stairwell or exit.
- If you encounter heavy smoke in a stairwell, go back and try another stairwell.

Decision

The responding Fire Department Incident Commander will control and make decisions at the scene of the fire. The Fire Department will decide when to turn control of the scene back to the University. The University Police will decide when to turn control of the scene back to the facility tenant(s).