

Fire Safety

Fire Safety Tips

1. Keep halls and aisles clear of furniture and equipment that may obstruct means of egress.
 2. Extension cords use should be considered a temporary source of power and should not be used to provide electricity on a permanent basis. Be sure that extension cords do not pose a trip hazard to the area.
 3. Do not overload electrical circuits.
 4. Treat all fire alarms as if an actual fire is in progress. All personnel should leave the building immediately!
 5. Time is of the essence - escape first, then call for help.
 6. Become familiar with your building or residence hall's evacuation plan and designated assembly points.
 7. Make sure you know two (2) ways to evacuate from where your office or room is. Remember-elevators don't count!
 8. Know the location of the fire alarm pull stations – generally they are located at each exit door, fire rated stairwell and near elevators.
 9. If you are in an area that is on fire – stay low until you get outside the building and keep your mouth covered as much as possible.
 10. If your clothes should catch on fire-do not run! Stop where you are, drop to the ground and roll over to smother the flames. Cover your face with your hands to protect your face and lungs.
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Slippery Rock University EHS provides inspections, training, response, and mitigation to the University community with the ultimate aim of preventing or limiting the loss of life and property..

SRU EHS works collaboratively with the Slippery Rock Fire Department to make SRU a fire safe learning and working environment.

SRU EHS also conducts fire prevention programs to the university community. These programs include fire extinguisher training, Smoke-Out training and general fire safety preparedness presentations.

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety facilitates fire safety education by including fire prevention components to its EHS training programs. Anyone wanting to schedule additional training in fire safety and prevention for their departments can do so by contacting EHS at 724-738-2465.

Fire Safety Systems

Introduction

Slippery Rock University facilities are required to have certain types of life safety systems in place and operational. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety is responsible for life safety plan review prior to installation on all construction and renovation projects, and to ensure that all life safety systems are inspected tested, operational and unobstructed. Access to fire protection system equipment and devices (fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations, sprinkler heads) should never be obstructed. The following is a synopsis of SRU fire protection systems:

Portable Fire Extinguishers

Portable Fire Extinguishers are considered the first line of defense to combat small fires limited in size. They are required even when a facility is equipped with sprinklers, standpipes and hoses or other fire protection equipment. Fire extinguishers must be appropriate for the types of activities in the area they are located in, and must be labeled as such and located in a visible location.

In the occupational environment, use of fire extinguishers is limited to those employees who have the proper training. SRU emergency responders have been provided with this training. If any employee notices a missing fire extinguisher or is interested in taking fire extinguisher training, contact the EHS at 724-738-2466.

EHS facilitates monthly checks of fire extinguishers to ensure proper charging.

Fire Alarm Systems

Fire alarm systems are present in all University buildings. Main panels are located strategically in each buildings, attached to which are a various types of enunciating devices (smoke detectors, heat detectors or specialized detectors) that when triggered, will activate the fire alarm system. Manual pull stations are present and when used will also sound the fire alarm.

Special building operational systems that may be connected to the fire alarm system include, but are not limited to: elevator recall, door closures, door releases, air handler unit shutdown, damper closures, smoke control activation and other smoke, heat and fire protection devices.

Fire alarm systems are designed to alert occupants to evacuate the building, and may include a visual and audible component. When the alarm is sounded, occupants should immediately leave the building according to each department's emergency evacuation plan. **DO NOT USE ELEVATORS** – take the stairs to exit the building. Although fire alarm system activation will be monitored by the SRU Police Dispatchers, any person who has first-hand knowledge of an active fire emergency should notify the SRU Police Dispatcher by DIALING 9-1-1 from any campus telephone. Cell phones users should also DIAL 724-738-3333 and tell the operator to connect you with SRU Police.

Fire alarms must be able to be heard in all areas of the building. If occupants are aware of areas where the fire alarm is not audible, please contact EHS at 724-738-2466.



Fire Doors

Fire doors are part of a building's designed life safety system – they are put in place to reduce and/or prevent the spread of a fire and smoke throughout the building.



It has been recognized that fire doors may need to be kept open for ventilation or in high traffic areas where lots of people pass through an area. In such situations, the fire doors are equipped with magnetic fire door retainers. These systems work by installing an electro-magnetic plate mounted on the wall. The plate holds the door open by attachment to a metal disk fitted to the back of the fire door. When a fire alarm is activated, the system sends a signal to the door retainer to release the door.

Regulations set forth by including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA 29CFr 1910.36), Ohio Fire Code Section 703 and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 80), and applicable Commonwealth fire code, clearly specify fire doors are not to be tied or propped open at any time. Fire doors may only be held open by mechanical means, engineered into a building's life safety

system, that release the doors upon activation of the fire alarm. In addition, defeating this life safety system feature increases the University's risk and liability from an insurance perspective.

Propping fire doors open using wedges, fire extinguishers or by other means is prohibited. The following are examples of UNACCEPTABLE fire doors.

As part of compliance, EHS conducts life safety inspection in buildings. If any fire doors are found propped open, EHS will document the non-compliant area, remove wedges or other devices, and notify the department responsible.

Fire Sprinklers

Fire sprinkler systems are integrated systems of pipes connected to independent sprinkler "heads" for controlling and/or extinguishing a fire. Care needs to be taken to ensure a minimum of eighteen (18) inches of clearance is constantly maintained between the lowest point of the sprinkler head and any furniture or stored items. Never suspend anything from sprinkler heads. If you notice items suspended from sprinkler heads, please remove and immediately contact EHS at 724-738-2466.



Fire Pumps

Fire pumps are essentially components of a sprinkler system's water supply. Connected to the public water supply for a building, the fire pump will activate when the sprinkler system detects a drop in pressure from the activation of a sprinkler head subjected to enough heat above its design temperature somewhere in the building.



Standpipe Systems

Standpipe systems are a series of pipe that are connected to a water supply for the fire department to fight fires. Dry standpipe systems provide hose outlets throughout the building. Outlets are connected to a riser, and then to a Siamese connection somewhere at street level outside the building. Fire trucks are used as pumpers to provide water from fire hydrants to the Siamese connection and pump water upward throughout the building.



Auxiliary Fire Protection Equipment

Fire Doors

Fire doors serve as barriers to restrict the spread of fire and smoke. Unless held open by automatic systems, fire doors shall be kept closed at all times and should never be propped open. Do not prop fire doors open with unapproved devices such as wedges or blocks. Care should be taken to not obstruct fire doors with equipment, furniture, etc....

Fire doors are located usually in stairwells, hallways or anywhere else required by fire code. Not all doors are considered fire doors. If a door has an EXIT sign above or near it, it is probably a fire door. If you notice fire doors propped open, please close them and immediately contact EHS at 724-738-2466.

EHS facilitates monthly checks of buildings to ensure fire doors are closed.



Exit Signage

Exit signs are present to identify paths to safely evacuate a building in the event of a fire. Exits are required to be lit. Building occupants are advised to become familiar with the locations of exits in their respective buildings and buildings through which they routinely visit. If you notice exit signage not lit where it should be, please contact EHS at 724-738-2466.

EHS facilitates monthly checks of buildings to be sure exits are appropriately marked and lighted where applicable.

Emergency Lighting

In the event of a fire or when a building experiences a loss of power, activation of the buildings emergency lighting occurs. These lights are equipped with batteries as a backup power source. If you notice emergency lighting not functioning, please contact EHS at 724-738-2466.

EHS facilitates monthly checks of buildings to ensure battery backups are operational.

