

## Be prepared and know what to do in a fire situation:

- Be familiar with the residence hall safety systems, such as the floor plans and the location of all exits. In case of an emergency, **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY**.
- Apathy can put you in danger and ignoring fire alarms hinders evacuation and lifesaving operations.
- Know your neighbors and be aware of anyone with disabilities or special needs who may require assistance from you or fire service personnel.
- Keep a flashlight and keys easily accessible.

## If a fire occurs in your room:

- Leave immediately and close the door behind you.
- Exit from the safest stairwell and leave the residence hall. Once you reach a safe location outside, call 911 and then Campus Safety at (602) 888-5516 and provide the officer with your floor and room number.
- Never go upstairs, because smoke and heat rise.
- Do not use elevators. They are to be used by the fire department only.

## If a fire occurs in another room:

- Activate a manual pull station and evacuate the building.
- Call 911 first and provide the dispatcher with the building address, your location and the location of the fire. Then call Campus Safety at (602) 888-5516.
- If you leave, take your keys and a flashlight with you. Before leaving, feel the door with the back of your hand to ensure fire conditions outside your room are not dangerous. **DON'T** leave if the door is hot to the touch – stay in place. If the door is cool to the touch, open the door slightly. If smoke conditions are not dangerous, go to the safest stairwell.
- If the door is hot to the touch and you stay in your room, do not break the window. If smoke and heat start to build up, open the window slightly. If your window does not open, stay low to the floor. Also, seal the door by placing a wet towel at the bottom.

These are general guidelines to consider if a fire strikes at the residence hall. Please remember that no two fires are alike, all fires behave differently and each may require a different response. Being prepared, remaining calm and knowing what to do in a situation can help save your life. Remember, alcohol or drug abuse often impairs judgment and hampers evacuation efforts. Using clear, rational judgment can save your life.

# RESIDENT FIRE SAFETY BROCHURE



## Did you know?

- 70 percent of fatal campus fires occurred on the weekend.
- 67 percent of the victims were males.
- 73 percent of the fatal fires occurred between midnight and 6 am.
- Between 2015 – 2019 on college/university campuses, there were 3,840 structure fires resulting in an annual average of 29 injuries and \$11 million in property damage.

## Colleges and universities must have a P.L.A.N.

When an emergency strikes, people tend to panic and may not know or remember what to do. Having a plan in place for emergencies will increase your ability to avoid injury and act quickly. The Mesa Fire Department recommends you PLAN for emergencies.

- P** Practice fire drills.
- L** Learn cooking safety.
- A** Apathy is the enemy.
- N** Never overload electrical outlets.



- Practice fire drills – Fire drills teach you how to safely exit your building and what procedures you need to follow in case of an emergency.
- Learn cooking safety – Cooking equipment is the No. 1 cause of residence hall structure fires. Residence hall fires from cooking surpass all other accidental fires combined. Always clean, maintain and unplug cooking equipment when done and NEVER leave equipment unattended while cooking.
- Apathy is your enemy – Carelessness with smoking materials, excessive combustibles and underestimating fire are risks in any residence hall. Ignoring fire alarms will contribute to panic and poor judgment when a real emergency arises. Your personal safety is no joke and not cause for apathy.
- Never overload electrical outlets – Overloaded electrical outlets and extension cords increase the risk of fire. Unplug or place seldom-used electrical items on a common power strip that is kept off when not in use.

**R** Remove anyone from immediate danger.

**A** Activate the fire alarm system by pulling the nearest fire alarm pull station, call 911 and then Campus Safety at (630) 888-5516.

**C** Contain the fire by closing doors.

**E** Evacuate the hotel.



## Safety Tips

- Read the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan.
- Check that you have a working smoke detector.
- Know the locations of all stairways and emergency exits on your floor.
- Check stairways for heat and/or smoke conditions before entering.
- Take your keys and a flashlight with you.
- If a fire occurs in your unit, LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
- Make sure you close the door behind you.
- When you reach a safe area, call 911, then Campus Safety at (602) 888-5516 and alert building tenants.
- Never use candles in residence hall rooms.