



**EVERY BEDROOM
NEEDS A WORKING
SMOKE ALARM.**

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 4-10, 2015**

firepreventionweek.org

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DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2007-2011, smoke alarms sounded in half of the home fires reported to U.S. fire departments.
- Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- No smoke alarms were present in more than one-third (37% of the home fire deaths).

Source: NFPA's "[Smoke Alarms in the U.S. Home Fires](#)" report

OCTOBER POSTER



[Gather Supplies](#)

Fire Prevention in the Workplace

If the fire is *inside* your space:

- Call 911 from a safe location.
- Use an extinguisher *only* if the fire is small and it is safe to do so.
- Warn others in the immediate area and on your entire floor.
- Evacuate using *stairwells* - do NOT use elevators.
- Close all doors behind you.

If the fire is *outside* your space:

- Feel the door before evacuating - do NOT open hot doors.
- If trapped, seal the bottom of the door to help prevent smoke from entering.
- Call 911 to report your exact location in the building.
- If the door is cool, open it carefully and evacuate if safe to do so.

Fire Prevention & Safety

- Know the locations and evacuation routes to all building stairwells.
- Never use the elevator if there is fire or smoke in the building. If you are stuck in an elevator, use the elevator phone to call for assistance.
- All-purpose ('ABC' dry chemical) fire extinguishers should be located throughout buildings in hallways, offices, break rooms and lobbies.

- Automatic fire sprinklers should be located throughout the building ceilings.

Fire Prevention Tips

- To ensure ease of evacuation in an emergency, keep all hallways and stairwell exits free of boxes and trash.
- Blocking fire doors open is a direct violation of the Fire Code and will allow smoke and fire to spread throughout the floor. Do not block open fire doors at any time.
- Use care when operating microwave ovens to prevent burning food or contents.
- Make sure all electrical equipment is turned off before you leave at the end of the day. This includes coffee pots, copiers, typewriters, computers and printers.
- Make sure electrical cords are in good condition. Inspect them periodically and replace them, or report frayed cords. Do not bypass grounded plugs.
- Use surge-protected power strips in place of extension cords.
- Do not let paper accumulate in your office or in storage areas. Pay special attention to housekeeping in areas where discarded paper accumulates, such as storage areas, copy rooms or break rooms.
- Space heaters are not allowed.
- Store all flammable liquids in a cool, safe location. Do not store large quantities of flammable solvents.

HEAR THE BEEP

Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm!

Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.
- For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.
- Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit www.usfa.fema.gov

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Theater Facilities – Interesting and Unique Features Designed to Save Lives

By: Brent Cooley, MS, CIH, CSP – UC Santa Cruz

In 1903, the Iroquois Theatre fire in Chicago occurred and killed over 600 individuals. While multiple things went wrong in that tragedy, two things stand out as interesting facts. Even back then, the facility had both a fire curtain (although not an effective one) and smoke vents. The fire curtain didn't deploy properly and wasn't flame retardant and the smoke vents had been sealed shut. With all the improvements in construction, design and emphases on safe procedures, many people believe tragic theater fires are a thing of the past. However, this isn't the case and theater fires continue to cause significant facility damage and threaten individuals within them. A quick Internet search confirms there were numerous theater related fires in 2014 alone. What's causing these fires? Unfortunately many of the same things that have been causing theater fires for decades and decades continue to be a problem. Live flame effects gone awry, curtains coming into contact with hot lighting instruments, and electrical / equipment related fires all contribute to the list of causes.

Similar to a research laboratory, theaters have some unique systems and features that must be fully understood to best ensure life safety. For a proscenium theater, the fire curtain is a critical component of the fire safety system. Depending on the design and type of construction, fire curtain operation will vary; however, all fire curtains are created with the same goal in mind and that is to create a separation barrier between the stage and audience seating area. The curtain barrier should deploy and allow audience members more time to safely evacuate from the space should a fire begin on stage. In older theaters, fire curtains were made from asbestos and special care must be taken to prevent the curtain from becoming damaged. If your theater still has an asbestos curtain, you should make plans to hire a certified contractor to remove and replace the asbestos containing fire curtain.

Another critical safety system in many theaters is the smoke vents located above the stage. These vents are typically spring-loaded doors with a mechanical fusible link that results in the vents opening automatically during a fire. The opening of the vents creates a chimney effect and releases smoke out the top of the facility thereby reducing the likelihood that individuals in the theater will suffer smoke inhalation. Many people have no idea there are smoke vents in the theater and often don't notice them until they are leaking. I've seen too many smoke vents that are sealed shut either by caulking, screwing, gluing or some other means to prevent water intrusion. By doing so, you're completely overriding the purpose of the vents and preventing them from functioning during a fire. Make certain your smoke vents operate as intended and do not seal them shut.

Similar to the fire curtain and smoke vents, there may be large fire rated doors on stage that are designed with a fusible link and some counterweighted or spring-loaded mechanism. Whereas smoke vents open during a fire, these doors are meant to close and further separate the stage area from backstage locations such as a shop or prop storage location. These doors should not be blocked and automatic closing mechanism must function properly.

Each of these systems is critical and must be inspected on a routine basis. If possible, they should be exercised manually to ensure the rigging and all components are working properly. If the answer to "when is the last time you dropped your fire curtain" is....pause...."uuhhhh, I can't remember"... that's not good. Use the available [fire safety inspection checklist](#) to help support your theater fire safety program and don't hesitate to reach out to your Campus EH&S Office and the Fire Marshal for assistance.

CONNECT

Know where to turn on your UC campus for the information you need to keep yourself, your workplace and your environment safe and secure. Click on the campus links below to connect to local program, educational and informational resources.

[UC Berkeley](#)

[UC Merced](#)

[UC Santa Barbara](#)

[UC Davis](#)

[UC Riverside](#)

[UC Santa Cruz](#)

[UC Irvine](#)

[UC San Diego](#)

[UCOP](#)

[UCLA](#)

[UC San Francisco](#)

[UC ANR](#)

FIRE PREVENTION RESOURCES

[Safety tip sheets for safety with cooking, candles, heating, smoking and electrical](#)

[Fire prevention with kids](#)

[Facts about Fire](#)

[Smoke alarm videos](#)

[What is your smoke alarm IQ](#)

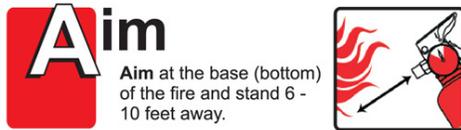
[Smoke alarm central](#)

[Fire Prevention Week](#)

[Fire Prevention Week - Fire Safety for Kids!](#)

How & When to Use Fire Extinguishers

Remember the **PASS** Word



Extinguishers should only be used on small fires (wastebasket-sized). If the fire is discovered while it is still small enough to be contained, take the extinguisher, stand back 8-10 feet from the fire and follow the **PASS** System:

Pull the retaining Pin.

Aim the nozzle at the base of the flames.

Squeeze the handle completely to discharge the dry chemical on the fire.

Sweep the nozzle from side to side. Go slightly beyond the fire area with each pass.

Once the fire is out, wait before leaving the area.

If the fire re-ignites, you may need to make another application. Fire extinguishers can generate a great amount of smoke when used, so be careful - smoke contains noxious fumes. Since smoke inhalation is the major cause of fire deaths, cover your mouth and nose with a wet cloth whenever possible.

If it is not feasible to use an extinguisher, begin evacuation procedures at once. Close doors behind you to contain the fire. Warn others in the area to evacuate.

[Image from www.foxvalleyfire.com](http://www.foxvalleyfire.com)

UPCOMING EDITIONS

December/January: Family Safety & Security

February: Industrial Safety/Hazardous Operations

March: Mobile Equipment

FEEDBACK, PLEASE

Send an email to EHS@ucop.edu to submit your comments on the October issue or to suggest content ideas for future issues. We look forward to hearing from you!