Fire Prevention Inspections

Regular inspections are a key piece of fire prevention, providing a dependable method for detecting, reporting and correcting potential hazards.

Inspectors at several UC campuses and all of the medical centers have recently begun using the Risk and Safety Solutions Inspect application to help streamline their inspection work. Inspect is a cloud-based tool that facilitates inspections using a mobile device as well as a desktop component for managing completed inspection reports. It has a complementary reporting dashboard that provides trend analysis to help administrators identify top concerns and improve results over time.

Inspect is used for inspecting a wide variety of environments across the UC system and beyond, including hospitals, food service facilities and laboratories. Recently fire prevention specialists at several campuses created a basic shared checklist within Inspect to address California Code of Regulations Title 19, which covers public safety and includes fire prevention.

In addition, the medical centers have been using the Inspect application during Environment of Care rounds, creating fire safety categories to inspect areas such as exit doors and paths, flammable gases and fire extinguishers.

To learn more about the Inspect application, visit www.riskandsafetysolutions.com.

Fire & Life Safety Training for UC Residence Halls

Going away to college and creating a “home away from home” can be an empowering experience for many students. Doing so with safety in mind is a skill that can enhance (and perhaps even extend) one’s life.

Between 2000 and 2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 4,100 fires in dormitories, Greek housing, and other related properties. Nearly 90% involved cooking equipment. Per year, these fires caused an average of 35 injuries and cost $14 million in damage. (National Fire Protection Association)
To promote fire safety within the University of California, UC Risk & Safety Training (in collaboration with the UC Council of Campus Fire Marshals) developed “Fire & Life Safety Training for UC Residence Halls”.

This 15-minute online course covers the following topics:
1. Fire and life safety skills
2. Fire prevention
3. Fire protection
4. What to do in case of a fire, and
5. When and how to use fire extinguishers

You can view this course online by visiting [http://uctraining.education](http://uctraining.education) (click on “Courses”). For more information, contact training@ucr.edu.

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**Fire Door Safety**

By: Paige McKibbin, PhD

A common safety issue that is identified during a building fire and life safety inspection involves fire-rated doors. Many of our staff, students, and researchers fail to appreciate the important safety function that these special doors provide, and use door stops to hold the door open for convenience. This creates a significant fire hazard for all building tenants because of the breach the opened door creates in the fire wall. Any time a doorway to a room or corridor is held open by use of an unapproved device, such as a door stop or a defeated lock, the fire-rated room or corridor safety is compromised. Some fire-rated exit doors can be held open if they are integrated with the building fire alarm system, this allows them to automatically close when the building fire alarm system is activated.

A fire-rated door is what building and safety professionals call “passive fire protection”. It is a feature used within buildings to help prevent the spread of fire. Fire-rated doors help prevent the propagation of fire and the flow of hot gases by self-closing and latching during a fire.

A fire door has three major components:
1. The door is constructed to a testable rating
2. The door is self-closing
3. The door has a latch

All fire-rated doors are certified by testing laboratories, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL), and typically have the laboratory’s certification label on the inside edge or top of the door. Below is an example of a testing laboratory’s label on the inside edge of a fire door.

A fire door that has been modified or propped open can no longer confine smoke and fire to the area of origin, and may not provide occupants with valuable time to evacuate the building.

The pictures below are from the same fire, and clearly show the effectiveness of a fire door.
Because the fire-rated door remained closed, the fire was contained to the interior of the room, while the outside hallway remained clear and allowed everyone to safely escape.

Please consider the implications of your actions on yourself and others when you manipulate fire-rated doors within your building. It is the intent of Fire Prevention to work with university personnel to provide the highest level of personal safety, and we appreciate your efforts in recognizing this objective.