UC SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

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EVERY SECOND COUNTS — PLAN 2 WAYS OUT!™
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
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OCTOBER 2017

Fire Prevention

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TYPES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

The "A-B-C" fire extinguisher can be used on all fires. Other types of extinguishers work only on a certain class of fire.

CLASS OF FIRE		TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS TO USE
A	Ordinary combustible materials, such as wood, cloth, paper, etc.	• "A-B-C" • Pressurized water
B	Flammable liquids, such as oil, gasoline, kerosene, etc.	• "A-B-C" • "B-C" dry chemical • Carbon dioxide
C	Presence of energized electrical circuits (e.g., electronic motors, electrical wiring, etc.)	• "A-B-C" • "B-C" dry chemical • Carbon dioxide
D	Reactive metals	• D extinguishers *only*
K	Oils and fats	• K (for kitchen)

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.

Inspect

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 (click on "Courses"). For more information, contact training@ucr.edu.
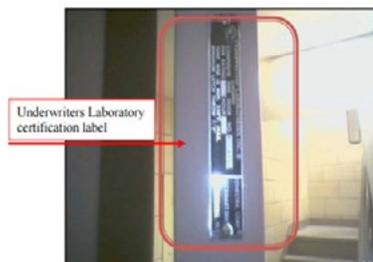
Fire Door Safety

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.

Underwriters Laboratory certification label

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.

Corridor outside the room

Interior of the room

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.

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 Davis • UC Irvine UCLA • UC Merced • UC Riverside UC San Diego • UC San Francisco UC Santa Barbara • UC Santa Cruz UCOP • UC ANR

RESOURCES

UC Safety Suite: https://ehs.ucop.edu/myboard/splash

Risk & Safety Solutions: http://riskandsafetysolutions.com

Center for Laboratory Safety: https://cls.ucla.edu

FEEDBACK PLEASE

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

This publication is produced and maintained by the Communications Team at Risk & Safety Solutions. For more information regarding our products and services, please email service@RiskandSafetySolutions.com.

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