



## FIRE SAFETY INFO BULLETIN

### CAMPUS SAFETY CAMPAIGN: Building Fire Safety Features

If a fire should occur...



Get Out



Stay Out



Stay Alive

STAY SAFE  
ON CAMPUS!



Buildings are equipped with a variety of features that are designed to stop the spread of fire, detect it or suppress it.

#### How do they work?

Doors...any door can help stop the spread of smoke or fire from one area to another.

Some doors, such as fire doors in corridors or stairwells of residence halls for example, are designed to stand up to fire longer than those on an individual room. However, it is really important that these doors are **CLOSED** for them to work. A fire door that has been propped open is going to allow the fire and the smoke to spread away from the fire, putting a lot of other people in danger, possibly trapping and maybe killing them.

Generally, if a door has a device that automatically closes the door, then it should not be propped open. Doors that should always remain closed when not being used are those on stairways. If the fire or smoke gets into a stairway, then that stairway has now been turned into a chimney. Now people trying to get out of the building can't use it, and they may become trapped above the fire-not a good place to be.



Smoke Alarm...also often known as smoke detectors, these devices are one of the best early-warning devices of a fire. They are designed to sense low levels of smoke and sound an alarm.

Some smoke alarms are what are known as "single station," or stand-alone devices. If they go into alarm only the one detector is activated, alerting people right around it.

Others may be connected together, such as in a two-story house, and they will all sound an alarm at the same time.

A third setup may be a fire alarm system, such as in a residence hall, where a smoke alarm is connected to the building's fire alarm system.





**Sprinklers...** fire sprinklers are a very effective method of putting out a fire quickly, before it has time to spread and put people in danger. Despite what you may see on television, usually only one or two sprinklers flow water-not every single sprinkler head opens up!



No matter what type of setup you may have, no fire detector can do its job if it is disabled.

Whatever you do...

- LEAVE the batteries in the detector
- LEAVE the detector uncovered so it can sense the smoke
- LEAVE the detector on the wall or ceiling where it can do its job.

Many fire fatalities have occurred when the detector has been disabled.

Don't become one of them!

Sprinklers will operate fast, putting out the fire while it is small.

Many people don't realize how fast a fire grows and spreads from room to room. Too often, people think they'll have plenty of time to get out. Having fire sprinklers installed can save your life if fire strikes.

In fact, when fire strikes, it can become deadly in as few as three minutes. Most fatal fires take place at night when people are sleeping.

A fire sprinkler system is like having a fire-fighter on duty 24 hours a day.



[www.campusfiresafety.org](http://www.campusfiresafety.org)

National Headquarters, 10 State Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 | Voice: 978.961.0410, Fax: 978.961.0747

*The Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) is dedicated to protecting life and property from fire at our nation's institutions of higher education. As a non-profit organization, CCFS engages in our life safety mission without commercial or monetary profit purposes and is supported by industry partners and federal grants.*