Life Safety for University at Albany Resident Halls

Presented by:
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Environmental Health and Safety Office Overview

• Fire and Life Safety
• Building Code Compliance
• Chemical and Radiation Safety
• Storm Water Management
Preventing Water Pollution on Campus

• Storm water on the Uptown Campus flows into Indian Lake (behind Indian Quad)

• When Indian Lake overflows, the water ends up in the Krumkill and ultimately the Hudson River
• Automotive fluids can contaminate stormwater via stormwater catch basins.
• Do not put any automotive fluids (oil, anti-freeze, brake fluids, gasoline, etc) into catch basins (e.g. don’t change your oil or wash your car in the parking lot).
• Report any spills to Environmental Health and Safety (442-3495) or the Power Plant 24-hour phone (442-3444)
Chemical & Radiation Safety

- Chemical Waste Disposal
- Chemical Handling
- Spill Response
- Student & Employee Training
- Regulatory Compliance
Building Code Compliance

- Plan Review and Permit Process
- Construction & Existing Structure Inspections
- Systems Maintenance
  - Fire Detection
  - Fire Suppression
  - Means of Egress
Why are we here...by the numbers:

- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 3,300 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, and sororities in 2002-2005.
- These fires resulted in annual averages of:
  - 7 Civilian Deaths
  - 46 Civilian Fire Injuries
  - $25 Million Dollars in Direct Property Damage
Why take fire safety classes?

• 1 in 3 People in this room will have an experience with fire in their life time.
• In 2006, 3,245 civilians lost their lives as the result of fire.
• 16,400 civilian injuries that occurred as the result of fire.
• Fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined

Emergency Contacts

- For any emergency (Police-Fire-EMS) Dial 911 to reach UPD dispatcher
- To contact EH&S 442-3495
Still not sure who to call to answer your question...

• Ask your RA!
Residence Hall Contract

- **Residence Hall License:** Fire Safety
  - **Prohibits:**
    - Candles, incense and open-flame devices.
    - Paneling, natural trees & wreaths.
    - Flammable liquids.
    - Excessive trash accumulation.
    - Combustible decorations. 20% wall area.
  - **Requires:**
    - Students evacuate during a fire alarm.
Residence Hall License: Fire Safety

- Tampering, Damaging, Interfering with Proper Function of FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS & EQUIPMENT
- PROHIBITED
  Includes tampering with:
  - Fire Extinguishers
  - Heat & Smoke Detection
  - Fire Alarm System
Fire Prevention: Room Inspections
Any Fire Stories?
Challenge

Think about Fire Safety
Every day
Fire Prevention Concepts

- Prevent fires from occurring
- In case a fire does occur:
  - Make sure everyone can get out
  - Separate the fire/smoke from the occupants
Planning Ahead

- Know your work area
- Know where your exits are located
- Know at least two ways out
- Know the location of fire extinguishers
- Know the location of fire alarm pull stations
- Keep your work area safe
- Have an escape plan!!
Planning Ahead

• DO NOT BLOCK OPEN FIRE DOORS
Planning Ahead

- Electrical Safety: Frayed and cracked cords, overloaded plugs and circuits, extension cord use.
- Do not block exits, fire extinguishers, fire alarms
- Fire Extinguishers should be mounted
- Keep combustibles from heat sources
Emergency Evacuations

- Evacuation Drills
- Pre-Plan Evacuation Route and Action
- 3X per year
- Meeting place AWAY from fire building
- Accountability of building residents
- Persons with Special Needs
Response to Fire Alarms

• In case of fire . . .
• Evacuate building calmly and quickly.
• Activate fire alarm on the way out.
• Feel doors for heat.
• Stay low in heat and smoke condition.
• If unable to exit . . . DIAL 911.
Emergency Evacuation:
*What To Do In Event of a Fire Alarm*

- Treat *every* alarm as a real emergency.
- Establish meeting point and accountability.
- No one should re-enter fire building - *“Get Out and Stay Out”*
- Report *known* problems to the Fire Dept. or University Police.
Residence Hall Buildings
Manual Pull Stations

- Located near building exits.
- In case of fire . . .
- Get Out and Stay Out
- Notify others on the way out by activating manual pull station.
Dangers of Malicious False Alarms

- Alarms become IGNORED.
- Students become slow to react to emergency notification.
- January 2000 Seton Hall University.
  Arson fire.
  3 students killed.
  18 previous false alarms in Boland Hall.
Reduction of Malicious False Alarms

- Falsely Reporting a Fire is a **CRIME** in New York State.
Reduction of Malicious False Alarms

- Tracking and Analysis
- Manual Pull Box Alarms
- Manual Pull Box Dye
- Reward Program
- ARREST of violators!
- Violators removed from the University at Albany
Emergency Evacuation

- Once out notify first responders of:
  - Persons trapped in the building
  - Disabled persons waiting in an Area of Refuge
  - Known location of fire
Fire Extinguishers

- Located throughout campus
- Should be used by trained persons to extinguish small, incipient phase fires
How to use a PFE:

- Pull the pin
- Aim the nozzle
- Squeeze the handle
- Sweep the base of fire
• Questions?