



Safety Matters

Environmental Health & Safety

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In case of fire...

All buildings on campus are equipped with fire alarm systems. We all agree this is a good thing and wouldn't hear of it being otherwise. Fire alarms let us know that something is wrong and we need to leave the building for our own safety.



The trouble is, fire alarms never seem to occur at convenient times. You might be in the middle of an important meeting or presentation, an urgent phone call, or working on a project with a strict deadline. Is a fire alarm ever convenient?

Fortunately, fires in campus buildings are rare; most alarms are caused by dust or accidents (like water from a broken line). But sometimes this tempts us to second guess a fire alarm and ignore its warning. That is a dangerous habit that also happens to be unlawful under Oklahoma statutes. When the fire alarm goes off, evacuation of the building is a requirement for all building occupants unless you have been told that the alarm system is being tested.

All campus alarm systems are tested at least twice a year to make sure they are working properly. All departments with offices in a selected building are given about two weeks' notice and are told that evacuation is not required. In turn, each department is expected to spread the word by posting the notice for all building occupants.

A lot of effort is put into ensuring your safety. But being safe includes taking responsibility for your own actions—even when it isn't convenient.

More information on campus fire safety and the fire alarm test schedule can be found on the EHS website at <http://www.ehs.okstate.edu/fire.htm>

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