

## CAMPUS EGRESS SAFETY

### Why should we keep hallways clear?

The North Carolina Fire Prevention Code requires that all exit halls be clear at all times. It is up to us to not store any items in our halls. There are numerous reasons to follow this code. Obviously, fighting fire and rescue must be the first concern. Firefighters must be able to pull 1-1/2" fully charged fire hoses through buildings to fight fire. Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics need plenty of space when removing a patient from the building. OSHA and State Fire Marshal fines could be levied against UNC for failure to enforce the State Fire Prevention Code. Or OSHA regulations.

Many buildings on campus are without natural lighting. When these buildings and others experience an electrical outage, partially obstructed halls could prevent evacuating

occupants from seeing or avoiding items improperly stored in aisles.

It just makes sense to practice good housekeeping in your building. Less paper products like scrap cardboard and excessive piles of paper goods decrease the amounts of combustible materials in a building. Combustible material is made of wood, compressed paper, plant fibers, plastics, or any other material that will ignite and burn. These materials can catch on fire if heated to their ignition temperature.

Another concern is how easily disabled persons can exit the building. Disabled persons need unobstructed halls to get out. So clean your hallways initially and then conduct spring cleaning annually thereafter to dispose of unneeded property and surplus items. - Kitty Lynn



**Combustible storage in halls and stairwells can create life hazards**



**FIRE SAFETY SECTION OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

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### UNC Surplus will pick up unwanted Stuff

If you have unwanted stuff that you want removed, you may contact Surplus using these instructions for property pick-up.

1. Go to <http://www.unc.edu/finance/mds/sp/index.htm> to reach the Material and Disbursement Services webpage.
2. Click on Get Surplus Forms, then Surplus Form.
3. Click on Surplus Prop-

- erty Receipt Form P-110.
4. A window will open prompting you to open the form.
5. Fill it out in detail itemizing each piece that needs to be surplus, include all UNC decal numbers, all serial numbers and a description of the property that you wish to have removed.
6. Call Surplus at 962-2134 to get a receipt number to write in the top right

- corner of the Receipt Form P-110.
  7. Fax form to 843-0166 or sent to campus box 1130.
  8. After two days, call Housekeeping #2-6586 to insure your receipt has been forwarded.
  9. Housekeeping will put your pickup on their schedule.
- Kitty Lynn

**SAFETY FIRST UNC**

212 Finley Golf Course Rd.  
CB 1650  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-4440  
Phone: 919-962-5708  
Fax: 919-962-0227

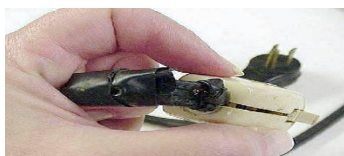
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## FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING ON CAMPUS



Fire Extinguisher training assists students and staff by hands-on-experience. Confidence is instilled as students practice in a non-emergency situation



Most campus buildings have either an ABC multi-purpose fire extinguisher mounted in the halls, or CO2 extinguishers mounted in laboratories and in electrical rooms. Many dining halls have BC extinguishers. The ABC extinguisher will put out Class A fires (ordinary combustibles), Class B fires (flammable liquids), and Class C fires (electrically energized fires). Most 10 lb extinguishers will put out 3 square feet of Class A fire, and 40 square feet of Class B or Class C fire.

When you sign up to

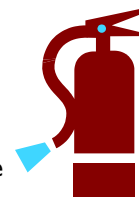
take a fire extinguisher class with Environment, Health and Safety's Fire Safety section, you will learn how to put out a fire with an extinguisher. We instruct by having a burn pan filled with propane and water lit and ready for the student to use the extinguisher to put the fire out.

Using the PASS system, the student must PULL the safety pin, AIM the nozzle towards the base of the fire, SQUEEZE the handle, and SWEEP the nozzle back and forth across the base of the fire.

This method is effective and gives every student an opportunity to put a fire out with an extinguisher.

If you are interested in setting up extinguisher training, simply call Fire Marshal Billy Mitchell #2-5708 to arrange for a fire safety extinguisher class to be held in a convenient location.

- Kitty Lynn



## EXTENSION CORD SAFETY

Extension cords are commonly used at work and at home. But defective, or damaged extension cords can result in equipment damage, fires, injury and even death. The following tips will help ensure a safer workplace.

- Extension cords should never be used in place of permanent wiring.
- Use only UL-listed extension cords.
- Make sure all new or repaired extension cords are tested before being used.
- Make a visual inspection of extension cords before each use. Remove from service any cords that have damaged attachment plugs, or cracked or worn insulation.
- Only grounding-type extension cord sets should be used. Discard any cord that has the grounding prong missing or cut off.
- Never overload an extension cord electrically. If the cord is warm or hot to the touch, have a qualified person check the cord and the appliance being used.
- If cords must cross vehicle or personnel passageways, they should be protected against physical damage and moisture, and identified with appropriate warnings. Never use an extension cord in a place where it must pass through an exit doorway, hazardous storage area, fire barrier, or standing water.
- If extension cords are fabricated, only qualified electricians should do the work.
- Never connect or disconnect an extension cord until all electrical load has been removed from the extension cord receptacle end.
- When not in use, extension cords should be stored where they will not be exposed to moisture.

Source: *The National Safety Council 2003*

## SEEK SHELTER DURING SEVERE WEATHER FOR BEST SURVIVAL

If a tornado is approaching, where should you seek refuge? Experts recommend when in an office building, basements and first floor interior rooms and hall ways offer the best protection. When in buildings with large free-span roofs, basements

and small interior rooms offer the best protection. When in your home, go to a basement or small interior room with stout walls. If you are in the country, seek shelter in a building. If you are far from a structure, lie flat in a ravine, ditch, or

depression and cover your head. Remember that a vehicle is an unsafe tornado shelter. When severe weather is forecast for your area, listen to a local radio, TV station, or monitor NOAA weather radio. It is

important to develop plans in advance of seasons known for their storm activity. Control/click on this link to reach the UNC Emergency Action plan ([http://ehs.unc.edu/fire\\_life/](http://ehs.unc.edu/fire_life/)).

Source: *National Safety Council*

## AVOID DUMPSTER JUICE

### An Easy Way to Improve Campus Water Quality

This past summer, employees from the EHS Department did an informal drive-by survey of trash dumpsters on campus. During this survey, it was determined that approximately 75% of trash dumpsters on campus have their lids open at any given time. You might ask, "What's the big deal about open dumpsters?" The big deal is that garbage contains all kinds of nutrients and bacteria that are bad for water quality.

When a dumpster is left open and a rainstorm happens, the dumpster will fill

with a few inches of this toxic and bacteria rich "dumpster juice". If it sounds disgusting, it is.

When the trash truck comes through campus once a week, all of these dumpsters with dumpster juice are emptied and the dumpster juice ends up on the ground and then flows into storm drains and campus streams. This dumpster juice injures aquatic life in streams such as Meeting of the Waters Creek and Battle Branch Creek by causing algal blooms and low oxygen levels. The University's

runoff (including dumpster juice) eventually ends up in Jordan Lake, which is both a recreational lake and a source of drinking water for several local communities.

So, please help improve local and regional water quality by taking the simple step of closing dumpsters when you finish adding your trash. Better yet, anytime you see an open dumpster lid on campus, take a little extra time and close the lid. The fish will be glad that you did. – Sharon Myers



**"The big deal is that garbage contains all kinds of nutrients and bacteria that are bad for water quality."**

## HOME FIRE EXTINGUISHERS-THE BIG SCOOP

Over several years of teaching fire extinguisher classes I have been asked questions about buying, installing, maintaining and disposing of home fire extinguishers. In this article I will address the most FAQ about this subject.

I recommend at least one fire extinguisher on each floor of your house. Also have one in or near the laundry room, kitchen and workshop.

Where can I buy a fire extinguisher and what should I look for?

Most hardware stores and discount home improvement stores sell fire extinguishers. When determining which one to buy, read the label on the extinguisher. Make sure it is certified by an independent testing firm [i.e.

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) or FM Approvals (Factory Mutual Research)]. Make sure it is classified for use on ABC type fires. Buy a 5 pound size. Most people can handle this size.



Where and how should I install my new fire extinguisher?

When you take it out of the box, use a permanent marker to mark the month and year of purchase on the body of the extinguisher. Be sure to mount the extinguisher using the bracket that came with it. If it is not mounted on a wall for easy access, it will end up in the

back of a closet, underneath the kitchen sink or some other hard to find place. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions for mounting.

What maintenance is needed?

The gauge should be checked once a month to make sure the needle is in the green or charged area. If it is not, dispose of it and buy a new one.

Once a year take it out of the bracket, check the gauge, make sure there are no obvious dings, or rust spots, turn it upside down and listen closely for sand falling inside, also check the date you wrote on it when you bought it. If your extinguisher has a hose make sure it has not deteriorated, or the tubing is not obstructed.

Sometimes the end can get plugged up. (E.g. mud dabbers making a nest.)

If you hear falling sand it is ok. If there is no sound of sand falling, tap the extinguisher on the ground a couple of times and listen again. The sound of falling sand means that the powder has not caked. If it is less than 12 years old, put it back into service for another year. If it is more than 12 years old, then dispose of it and buy a new one.

How do I dispose of an extinguisher?

Throw it in the trash, or take it to your local household hazardous waste collection site.

- Neal Mochel