

Fire Risk Assessment for Students

Sadly, UCEAP suffered a fire tragedy involving a UCEAP student in Paris, Jasmine Jahanshahi. She died in April 2011 in a building fire in Paris. The fire, in the apartment she was visiting, also killed four other international students and injured 57, some of them severely. Jasmine was 20. Empower yourself and others by adopting fire-safety habits and education. Know about fire safety in your host country.

A fire risk assessment is an organized and careful look at your room, building, classroom, etc., the activities carried out there (sleeping, cooking, studying, etc.), and the likelihood that a fire could start and cause harm to you and others.

The goals of the fire risk assessment are to:

- identify the hazards
- reduce the risks of those hazards causing harm to as low as reasonably possible
- decide what fire precautions are necessary to keep yourself, and others, safe if a fire does start

4 Steps of a Fire Risk Assessment

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| Step 1 | Identify fire hazards | <p>Sources of ignition: <i>candles, cigarettes, etc.</i></p> <p>Sources of fuel: anything that can burn</p> <p>Sources of oxygen: <i>air; oxidizing substances</i></p> | <p>What you should do: Check your premises. Have you found anything that could start a fire? What could burn? Keep sources of ignition and fuel apart. Think: Carelessly discarded cigarettes and other smoking materials are a major cause of fire.</p> |
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| Step 2 | Identify people at risk | <p>You and those around you</p> | <p>What you should do: Everyone is at risk if there is a fire. Who could be especially at risk? If you have a roommate, talk about fire safety. If your roommate has a disability, know how you can help.</p> |
| Step 3 | Evaluate and act Remove, reduce and protect from risk | <p>Evaluate the risk of a fire occurring and the fire risk to you and others</p> <p>Remove or reduce fire hazards (e.g., overloaded electrical sockets, never use a space heater to dry clothes)</p> | <p>What you should do: Think: What are the risks of a fire starting? Are there two exits from your room? How can you avoid accidental fires? Are there smoke detector and alarms?</p> |
| Step 4 | Record, plan, practice | <p>Do you have a workable smoke detector? A fire alarm? An escape ladder?</p> <p>A sound escape plan, with two ways to get out? Talk to roommates/landlords; visit http://www.firesafetyfoundation.org/education/make-a-plan.html</p> <p>Practice, practice, practice</p> | <p>What you should do: How will you know there is a fire? Do you have a plan to warn others? Have you planned escape routes, making sure that you will be able to safely find your way out, even at night if necessary? Practice your plan.</p> |