

Know what to do during a fire

1. **Do not panic. Stay calm!**
2. **Test any closed doors with the back of your hand for heat.** Do not open the door if you feel heat or see smoke. Close all doors as you leave each room to keep the fire from spreading.
3. **Crawl low under smoke.** Cleaner air is always near the floor.
4. **Don't delay.** Choose the safest and closest exit. Once you are out, do not go back.

Stop, drop, and roll!

What if You Can't Get Out Right Away?

Fire spreads quickly. In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house or for it to be engulfed in flames.

If you can't get out fast, because fire or smoke is blocking an escape route, yell for help.

Identify Fire Hazards

Check for sources of ignition, fuel, and oxygen: A burning candle; too many items plugged into one outlet, a shirt thrown over a lamp, a worn electrical cord; a space heater used to dry clothes, windows that are stuck; security bars on windows that cannot be opened, etc.

Resources

Fire Safety Foundation:
www.firesafetyfoundation.org

FEMA Home Fires
<http://www.ready.gov/home-fires>

Passport to Fire Safety
<http://www.passporttofiresafety.org/>

Fire Safety 101

Take Fire Safety Seriously

Prevent Fire

Install Smoke Detectors

Be Prepared if a Fire Occurs

Fire Safety

Fire injuries and deaths occur among college-age students every year in the U.S. and around the world. An important step you can take to protect yourself against fire is to install smoke alarms and keep them in good working order. You can buy smoke alarms before departure to make sure you will have one once you arrive abroad.

Safety Precautions

- Read more about fire safety and prevention in the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
- **Know how to call the fire department.**
- **Smoke alarms save lives:** You are responsible. Install smoke alarms outside every room and every level of housing facilities. Test them regularly.
- **Do not disable smoke alarms.**
- **Have a fire extinguisher** and know how to use it.
- **Look for fire hazards**
Inspect rooms and buildings for fire hazards. Ask your UCEAP Study Center and/or partner institution staff for guidelines.
- **Do not overload electrical outlets**
- Use extension cords properly.
- Learn to correctly use and maintain heating and cooking appliances.
- **Inspect exit doors and windows** and make sure they are working properly.
- **Create an escape plan.**
- **Practice** escapes and evacuation plans.
- **Take fire alarms seriously.**

If you Discover a Fire

Every second counts Alert people to evacuate.

Activate the nearest fire alarm, and exit the building.

Know your Way Out

Have an escape plan and practice it regularly. It could save your life. Smoke from a fire will make it hard to see and may disorient you. It is important to learn and remember the different ways out. How many exits are there? How do you get to them from your room? Have everyone in your group to draw a map of the escape plan for shared accommodations.

Get outside quickly and safely.

Cooking and smoking are leading causes of fire injuries around the world.

People living in rented or shared accommodations are seven times more likely to have a fire. (direct.gov.uk)

The Cause

Many factors contribute to housing fires.

- Many students are unaware that fire is a real risk or threat.
- Fire alarms are often ignored.
- Building evacuations are delayed due to lack of preparation and preplanning.
- Misuse of cooking appliances, overloaded electrical circuits and extension cords increase the risk of fires.
- Alcohol is a major factor contributing to burns in college-age students. In most cases where fire fatalities occurred on college campuses, alcohol was involved. Alcohol use impairs judgment and hampers evacuation efforts. A student under the influence of alcohol is more likely to fall asleep while smoking or while a candle is burning. (USFA, FEMA)

80% of all US fire deaths occur in residences. (USFA)

Candles and incense cause 12,000 residential fires annually. (College Fire Safety)

Recordkeeping and fire classification practices worldwide prevent reliable comparisons with the U.S.