

# FIRE DRILL FAQ'S

Q. Why do we have fire drills?

A. To familiarize occupants with the sound of the alarm system, practice evacuation procedures, and to check the alarm system for proper operation.

Q. Do I have to leave the building during an alarm.?

A. Absolutely! Everyone must evacuate university buildings, whenever the fire alarm system is activated. Treat every alarm as an emergency and promptly leave the building.

Q. How often are fire drills conducted on campus?

A. Fire drills are scheduled using the requirements specified in the N.C. State Fire Prevention Code. Buildings receive fire drills according to their occupancy type. Examples of these types are: Academic/Support Buildings are considered Business Occupancy and therefore receive fire drills on an annual basis. Assembly Occupancies such as gymnasiums, theaters, large meeting spaces, etc. receive fire drills on a quarterly basis. Residential occupancies are required to receive annual fire drills, however Appalachian State conducts drills in Residential Occupancies at least twice per year. Day care (Educational) occupancies receive fire drills on a monthly basis.

Q. How long does a fire drill normally last?

A. Most fire drills on will take only 5-10 minutes. Drill times can vary building to building, depending on many factors such as speed of evacuation, building size, or alarm malfunctions. To help speed up this process, the Safety Office asks that everyone evacuate promptly to help ensure minimal disruption to work/class schedules.

Q. Where do I need to go once outside the building?

A. Each building/department should establish an emergency evacuation or gathering point, outside and away from the building (at least 50 feet). This point should be in an area that will not interfere with arriving emergency vehicles/personnel. Areas should also establish an inclement weather evacuation point.

Q. If the alarm has stopped, can I go back inside?

A. Occupants should wait for approval to re-enter the building once the alarm has stopped. Safety Office personnel or other designated persons will advise occupants when it is o.k. to come back inside.

Q. What if someone in my area is mobility impaired and cannot leave the building?

A. Mobility impaired individuals should be especially diligent in pre-planning their escape routes. Many university buildings now feature Areas of Rescue Assistance where mobility impaired individuals can go to alert emergency responders of their location and await assistance with evacuation. If you think that an employee, student or visitor may still be in the building please alert arriving emergency personnel.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Safety Office at 262-4007 ext. 1.