Policy Statement

The university is committed to following fire safety practices, as articulated by both the fire codes and other standard-setting organizations. Fire and Life Safety systems are designed to provide staff and visitors safe, secure structures that meet, and often exceed, fire and building codes. Everyone has a vested interest in maintaining these systems.

Applicable Campus:

All UC Denver Campuses

Purpose

To establish a policy for compliance with the fire code on campus property.

Scope

The policy covers all campus departments and staff.

Procedures

1. Personnel shall not obstruct, disable, or alter any fire or life safety system (including fire detection/suppression systems, fire extinguishers, fire call-stations, fire alerting alarms, and fire doors and cabinets). NOTE: It is a criminal offense to obstruct or tamper with fire and/or life safety systems, and University Police will be called to investigate any unauthorized damage to fire systems.

2. Maintaining clear corridors and paths of egress travel is fundamental to life safety. As such, no storage is allowed in exit corridors, stairwells, or under stairs. Certain public areas may be suitable for seating and tables, however these must be approved by the campus Fire and Life Safety Officer. An unobstructed minimum width of 44 inches shall be maintained in all public corridors and hallways that provide access to main exits.

3. Storage must not block or interfere with the operation of exits, fire systems, eyewash/shower stations, or electrical circuit breaker panels.
4. Laboratory and office equipment, such as laboratory refrigerators/freezers, centrifuges, scintillation counters, incubators, or any heat-producing device (e.g. microwaves, coffee pots, and toasters) cannot be in use or stored in the public corridors. Office equipment is not allowed in the main corridors or in stairwells.

5. Flammable storage cabinets must be inside of laboratories and away from doors. In buildings with the "open lab floor plate," each lab module may have a maximum of 2 gallons of flammable liquids outside of approved flammable storage cabinets. Please seek guidance prior to purchasing specialized units, such as explosion-proof refrigerators, as these require approval from the campus Environmental Health & Safety Department and/or the campus Fire & Life Safety Officer.

6. Compressed gas cylinders within labs must be secured to prevent falling. Compressed gas and cryogenic gas containers are not allowed to be stored in public corridors.

7. Many other fire and life safety policies are set forth in separate documents. These include: fire alarm procedures, fire drill guidance, storage of flammable liquids, electrical safety, and other important documents. All fire and safety policies may be found on the UC Denver Facilities Operations website (http://www.ucdhsce.edu/admin/facilities/).

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12-20-07
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References:
- 2006 ed. International Fire Code
- Campus Authority having Jurisdiction Policy