Policy Statement

The most common cause of unwanted fire alarms on our campus involve heating units that are not attended. Fire detectors will detect smoke, even without flames, therefore smoldering of any material can result in the Aurora or the Denver Fire Department responding and evacuation of the building. Smoke detectors are important, because they give occupants early warning; however, we should always strive to eliminate nuisance alarms (and actual fires) due to burnt food or overheating of other materials.

Applicable Campus:

All UC Denver Campuses

Purpose

To establish a policy for prevention of nuisance fire alarms on campus property.

Scope

The policy covers all campus departments and staff.

Procedures

All heating units must have someone in attendance while the unit is in operation.

Heating units include, but are not limited to: microwave ovens, popcorn poppers, standard ovens, space heaters, hot plates, and laboratory heating units (such as Bunsen burners). The policy requires that someone be present and not leave until the unit is shut off and the unit is cool to the touch.

Please also note that all personnel should evacuate when an alarm sounds. Unless a fire drill or alarm-test has been pre-scheduled, all alarms are to be considered as real. Please contact the Fire and Life Safety Officer for questions or concerns (303-724-0293).
Prepared by:

Wayne Blubaugh, MPA
Fire and Life Safety Officer, Facilities Operations

Date

12/20/07

Approved by:

David C. Turnquist, PE
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Facilities Operations

Date

12-20-07

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