Fire Services

Summary/Purpose: To provide guidance to the University Community on Fire Services and information on building inspections, fire drills, and general fire safety issues.

GENERAL

The Physical Plant Department manages the University of Mississippi Fire Services with 3 part-time Fire Inspectors. University Fire Inspectors work under the authority of the State Fire Marshal’s Office. The fire inspectors manage fire, life safety issues, and alarms for University Academic Buildings. Auxiliary Services (Student Housing, Athletics) and Greek Organizations are responsible for maintenance and repair costs of their facilities’ fire and alarm systems.

As a service however, Physical Plant Fire Services conduct periodic scheduled inspections and training with Auxiliary and Greek organizations.

RESPONSIBILITY OF BUILDING OCCUPANTS IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

All occupants are required to leave the building when a fire alarm sounds or during a fire drill. Sound the alarm as the building is vacated. Occupants evacuating a building should not use elevators. Use the stairwell exits only. No one should re-enter the building until authorized to do so by fire officials. Once out of the building, report the fire location by dialing 911 on a cell phone or notifying University Police by dialing 662-915-7234.

FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES

On the University of Mississippi campus, fire fighting services are contracted with the City of Oxford.

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

University Fire Inspectors conduct fire safety inspections on University and Auxiliary buildings once each year. Emphasis is placed on building evacuation plans, emergency/exit lighting, and clear passageways free of obstructions. Other safety violations are noted and reported for correction as appropriate.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

The State of Mississippi Fire Marshal is invited annually to inspect University buildings.

GREEK HOUSES

Courtesy fire safety inspections on Greek Houses located on campus are conducted once each semester. State law requires each Greek House on University property to have an operational and monitored smoke and fire alarm system. It is the Greek organization’s responsibility to be in
compliance with the National Fire Code (NFPA) Standard 72 as published by the National Fire Protection Association.

REPORTS

Inspection reports are forwarded to the Vice Chancellor(s) associated with buildings housing their respective academic deans/chairs/directors/building mayors. The discrepancies will be re-inspected during the next annual inspection.

Academic Deans and Department Chairs are responsible for correcting Fire Code Deficiencies pointed out during the annual fire inspections, especially issues concerning blocked/restricted passageways and student occupancy levels in classrooms.

Greek House Corporations are responsible for correcting deficiencies within their respective houses and maintaining current certification of smoke and fire alarm systems to meet existing state laws and fire codes.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills are conducted once per semester for each dormitory in coordination with the Director of Student Housing or his representative. Each Greek House on campus will also have fire drills once per fall and spring semester. Greek Houses by nature are sensitive and extra inspections of Greek Houses and alarm systems will be conducted as time permits or as deemed appropriate.

ALARMS

When a fire alarm sounds, follow the procedures outlined under the responsibilities in the above paragraph.

Tampering with building fire alarms, fire systems, or fire extinguishers is prohibited. Violators are subject to disciplinary action, monetary fine, or both. Only authorized personnel are allowed to work on these life safety systems.

FIRE ALARM MONITORING SERVICE

The Physical Plant Department has a 24 hour 7 day per week Dispatch Office that monitors automated fire alarms. Not all campus buildings have automated fire alarm systems. The monitoring system is computer based.

Greek Houses with automated fire alarm systems compatible with Physical Plant Dispatch computers may be monitored on a temporary basis 24/7 free of charge. Temporary monitoring is offered as a service to allow Greek organizations time to install a monitored smoke/fire alarm system required by State Law and meets NFPA Standard Fire Codes. Greek Houses are responsible for any maintenance, repairs, phone line expenses, and testing that is related to their system.
Greek Houses assume full responsibility for any circumstances resulting from fire alarm systems’ failure to meet State Laws or fire codes as established.

University Fire Services and Physical Plant are unable to provide maintenance on Greek fire alarm systems. During semiannual fire drills, the Greek fire alarm systems connected to the Physical Plant Dispatch will be tested for functionality. Discrepancies will be reported as indicated above. Requests from Greek organizations for Physical Plant assistance in conducting additional fire alarm tests are subject to a fee assessment.

Greeks are encouraged to contact their alarm monitoring companies for periodic testing of systems. Greeks are also encouraged to purchase maintenance contracts on fire alarm systems from certified service providers.

Requests for assistance from Physical Plant should be directed to the Physical Plant Production Control Desk, 662-915-7003.