

After-Action Report

University Housing Fire Drills

February 28, 2020

Summary

During the weeks of February 9th and 23th, 2020, University Safety Officer, in conjunction with University Housing, conducted fire drills in the following Residence Halls:

Feb. 10: Pack Place

Feb 11: Living-Learning Community (Honors 1, 2 & 3 / Honors 4, STEM & ROTC) & Arkansas Hall

Feb 12: University Hall & The Circle (Strickland Hall & Gaines Hall / Richmond Hall & Smith Hall)

Feb 14: Northpark Quads (Building 3 / Building 1 & 2 / Buildings 4 & 5) & Kays Hall

Feb 25: Sorority Houses (Delta Zeta / Alpha Omicron Pi / Chi Omega / Zeta Tau Alpha / Alpha Gamma Delta)

Feb 26: Fraternity Houses (Kappa Alpha/ Sigma Pi/ Lambda Chi Alpha/Pi Kappa Alpha/Sigma Chi/Alpha Gamma Rho)

The following report includes timing information and areas for improvement identified during the drills and their follow-up activities, along with steps to address the issues noted. Issues have been forwarded to the appropriate department for remedy or repair.

Pack Place

- Time required for total evacuation(s): Building 1 – 3:25; Building 2 – 4:42
- Total Occupants Evacuated: Building 1 – 50; Building 2 – 45
- Procedural Observations: Numbers skewed from people leaving.
 - o Action Step: Have someone outside during drill to keep headcount as residents leave the building, prior to leaving the site
- Procedural Observations: RAs had very good noise level and sense of urgency for evacuation.
 - o Action Step: Continue “howl and pound” mentality
- Procedural Observations: Several residences re-entered Building 2, while alarm was sounding, despite being told they could not enter the building at that time.
 - o Action Step: Better train residents on procedures, introduce disciplinary actions.

Honors LLC Buildings 1,2 & 3

- Time required for total evacuation(s): Building 1-1:58; Building 2-1:35; Building 3-1:50
- Total Occupants Evacuated: Building 1-26; Building 2-19; Building 3-23
- Procedural Observations: Due to rainy conditions, many residents did not use their nearest exits, they used the exits that would keep them in the building the longest.
 - o Action Step: Reiterate that in a real emergency, no matter what the weather, using the closest exit is the appropriate procedure.

Honors Building 4, ROTC & STEM LLCs

- Time required for total evacuation(s): Building 4- 1:55, STEM- 2:00, ROTC- 2:30
- Total Occupants Evacuated: Building 4- 43, STEM- 15, ROTC- 24
- Procedural Observation: ROTC & STEM evacuated to wrong side of building. Several residents did not use the exits closest to them.
 - o Action Step: Re-educate where evacuation zones are for each building and that in a real emergency, the closest route is typically the best route.
- Equipment: Kitchen fire alarm was pulled in ROTC building, causing fire suppression system to go off and have to be reset.
 - o Action Step: Get access to fire alarm in RA office and ensure that pull station in kitchen is reserved for use during Emergencies only.

Arkansas Hall

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 3:24
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 62
- Procedural Observations: Some residents gathered on west side of building
 - o Action Step: Reiterate emergency evacuation checkpoint to residents – southeast corner of east parking lot

University Hall

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 4:22
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 45
- Weather conditions made this one of the most difficult fire drills for this session. Very heavy rain at time of fire drill and temperatures in the 40-degree Fahrenheit range. Residents evacuated all the way across parking lot to parking garage. There were no refusals or issues from residents, despite the off-putting weather conditions.

The Circle- Strickland Hall & Gaines Hall

- Time required for total evacuation(s): Strickland- 2:05, Gaines- 2:32
- Total Occupants Evacuated: Strickland- 5, Gaines-13

The Circle-Richmond Hall & Smith Hall

- Time required for total evacuation(s): Richmond- 3:42, Smith- 2:01
- Total Occupants Evacuated: Richmond- 15, Smith- 13
- Procedural Observation: Smith Hall West Stairwell door does not close automatically or lock quickly.

- Action Step: Have RAs and Residents focus on ensuring proper door closing and locking mechanisms.

Northpark Quads Building 1, 2, 3

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 3:04
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 174
- Procedural Observation: Drill was not conducted in orderly manner.
 - Action Step:

Northpark Quads Buildings 4 & 5

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 4:14
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 147
- Procedural Observation: Drill was not conducted in orderly manner.
 - Action Step:

Kays Hall

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 4:31
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 90
- Procedural Observation: Residents did not use nearest exits
 - Action Step

Delta Zeta House

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 2:07
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 9

Alpha Omicron Pi House

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 1:40
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 7
- Procedural Observation: House did significantly better for this drill than during fall drills. Much improvement was noted in the evacuation process.

Chi Omega House

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 1:35
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 10

Zeta Tau Alpha House

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 1:42
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 9

Alpha Gamma Delta House

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 1:57
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 9

Kappa Alpha House

- Unable to perform drill due to no attendance at house and being unable to contact fire alarm company to operate panel. Restrictions due to Covid-19 prevented rescheduling of drill
- Needs address posted on house

Sigma Pi House

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 3:40
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 4
- Procedural Observation: Residents were late to evacuate, did not leave building immediately upon hearing the fire alarm.
 - o Action Step: Remind residents that upon hearing fire alarm, evacuation must be immediate and urgent.
- Procedural Observation: Faulty extension cord use in kitchen
 - o Action Step: Re-inspect kitchen to determine if extension cord had been replaced and was not serving as a permanent solution to a problem.

Lambda Chi House

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 3:39
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 12
- Procedural Observation: Extension cords exposed and used as permanent wiring
 - o Action Step: Re-inspect to determine if extension cord had been replaced and was not serving as a permanent solution to a problem.
- Procedural Observation: Heat detector hanging out of ceiling in kitchen
 - o Action Step: Re-secure heat detector according to code.
- Procedural Observation: Panel alarm silenced and triggered upon arrival.
 - o Action Step: Panel needs to be monitored and updated.

Pi Kappa Alpha House

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 4:45
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 10
- Procedural Observation: Rear Exit sign missing from house
 - o Action Step: Replace rear exit sign on ceiling

- Procedural Observation: Occupants did not respond to fire alarm going off, many went upstairs when alarm was sounding, some re-entered building while alarm was sounding, others stood and did not evacuate until instructed to do so by a member of the safety office.
 - o Action Step: Emphasize every alarm is reason for evacuation, seek disciplinary actions.

Sigma Chi House

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 1:47
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 15
- Procedural Observation: Was the loudest house and got the most people out of the house the quickest. All occupants evacuated through the same route in an orderly fashion.
- Procedural Observation: Exposed outlets
 - o Action step: Get plates to cover exposed outlets.

Alpha Gamma Rho House

- Time required for total evacuation(s): 6:00
- Total Occupants Evacuated: 4
- Procedural Observation: Once alarm was set off on bottom floor, it could not be heard and was not in sync with the top floor. Top floor was set off by pull station and could not be heard on bottom floor. Neither alarm was very easy to hear from stairwells.
 - o Action Step: Update alarm system.
- Procedural Observation: Occupants did not respond to fire alarm when it was hear, stayed in rooms.
 - o Action Step: Go over procedures and policies for when fire alarm sounds in any building.