FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022

Auraria Campus Fire Drill Change in Procedures

In past years, fire drills on the Auraria Campus were conducted at 6 AM due to the hesitancy from the institutions to perform drills while students were in class. Fire drills conducted at 6 AM tests the system, not the process.

The purpose of fire drills is to ensure that in the event of an actual fire related emergency, students, staff, and faculty know how to evacuate buildings efficiently on the Auraria Campus.

The Emergency Preparedness, Coordination, and Recovery Committee (EPCAR) has made the recommendation to change procedures to comply with International Fire Code and Clery Act.

- International Fire Code (IFC) Institutes of Higher Education (non-residence halls) are considered class B occupancy and require an annual fire drill to familiarize all occupants with fire drill procedures.
  
  https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2018/chapter-4-emergency-planning-and-preparedness#IFC2018_Pt02_Ch04_Sec405

- Clery Act compliance defines a test as regularly scheduled drills, exercises, and appropriate follow-through activities, designed for the assessment and evaluation of emergency plans and capabilities. You must conduct at least one test a year and you can choose to announce it or not.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

1. Fire drills will begin in September 2022.

2. Over 30 buildings on the Auraria Campus
   a. Conduct fire drills for half the buildings during second/third week of fall semester
   b. Conduct fire drills for the other remaining half of the buildings during the second/third weeks of spring semester

3. Fire drills will be performed while class is in session
   a. The date of the fire drill will be announced, but the timing of the drill will not

4. Campus public safety information will be provided for inclusion on all syllabi and for distribution to all building occupants.
   a. Safety information will include evacuation route awareness and expectations to evacuate the building during fire alarms

5. Information related to noncompliance by students, staff, and faculty will be reported to the appropriate institutional authority.

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