

September 17, 2024

In compliance with the Annual Fire Safety Report Cleary Statute 34 CFR 66.49(b), the following will include campus fire statistics, description of fire safety systems in housing, fire drills, policies for housing, evacuation procedures, policies for fire education, reporting positions, improvement plans.

Campus Fire Statistics

The campus recorded 206 alarms last year; on two these resulted in damage to property. Both were cooking errors. The first caused significant damage due to sprinkler activation and the ensuing water damage. The other caused smoke damage to a suite.

Description of Fire Safety Systems in Housing

- In Housing 64-74, the buildings have interlinked smoke detectors.
- In Housing 2-6 and 76-80, a supervised wet pipe fire suppression, deluge fire suppression window wash systems, and a fire detection and alarm system protect the buildings.
- In Housing 84-99, the building is protected by a supervised fire suppression system and interlinked smoke detectors.
- In Housing 210-216, the buildings are protected by wet pipe fire suppression systems supervised by a fire detection and alarm system.
- All units that have built-in kitchens also have handheld fire extinguishers.
- The Residents and Dining Hall is protected by wet pipe fire suppression systems supervised by a fire detection and alarm system. The kitchen is also protected by several commercial kitchen hoods with suppression systems.

Fire Drills

Fire drills are an integral part of fire training. Our procedure is found in the UTPB Fire and Life Safety Plan. In our child care, fire drills are completed monthly. The STEM Academy is a K-12 school and is now under the Ector County Independent School District operations.

The 2021 -2022 academic year saw a return to normalcy as we completed a fire drill for each academic building, two drills in housing buildings, and monthly drills for Childcare and STEM academy.

The 2022-2023 academic year saw fire evacuation drills annually for our academic buildings, two drills in our housing building, and monthly drills for our Childcare. The STEM academy drills were conducted in coordination with ECISD Police.

The 2023-2024 academic year saw fire evacuation drills annually for our academic buildings, two drills in our housing building, and monthly drills for our Childcare.

Policies for Housing

Housing has many banned products and activities.

- Grills of all types, fuels, and lighter fluids are all banned
- Candles of all kinds are banned
- Heating sources include hotplates, foreman grills, griddles, and the like.
- Laboratory or industrial chemicals

- No open flame
- Use of extension cords is highly limited in use and duration
- Portable heaters are highly regulated for emergency use only.

Evacuation procedures

As defined in the UTPB Fire and Life Safety Plan, there are specific evacuation points for buildings for everyone to gather. In case of foul weather, the gym is where we will have people wait for the issue to be cleared.

For housing apartments, the evacuation point is across the road from the apartment and out of the smoke. They are to move and shelter in the Parker Ranch House in foul weather. The Residents and Dining Hall will use a posted evacuation point to the west of the building and, in foul weather, the Science Technology Building, which can be opened electronically by our Police Dispatchers.

Policies for fire education

The university has training programs that include

- Fire extinguisher training with a Bull-ex digital fire simulation system.
- Garaventa Evacu-trac is a device that can evacuate a person with mobility issues downstairs safely and efficiently.
- In training, people are advised how to find an evacuation path in a building, to have two practiced paths from all the typical places they are in,
- All enclosed stairwells are areas of refuge because they have a two-hour fire separation from the rest of the building.
- Once evacuated, departments are encouraged to take attendance and report people who may be missing and where they may be to police, fire, or environmental health and safety staff.

Reporting positions

The Environmental Health and Safety office maintains all reporting to the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office and the local fire department.

- The Director of EHS is also the lead of this program and the authority having jurisdiction over the campus.
- The Assistant Director is our fire marshal.

Improvement plans

The Mesa Building, our primary classroom building, is being fitted with a building wide fire sprinkler system and a complete refit of the fire alarm and detection system.

The university has maintenance and operation schedules and a replacement and improvement schedule as required by the NFPA. Plans for other un-sprinkled buildings have been ranked and estimated for funding purposes. Each year, funding is requested for these improvements.

Respectfully,

Lail Grant, Director