



## General

- People die or are seriously injured each year from smoke inhalation from being trapped in burning buildings
- Fire safety features have been designed into modern buildings for the purpose of saving lives during such an emergency
- These safety features should not be defeated.

## Stairway Doors

- Stairways act as a barrier system to restrict fire and smoke from exit ways
- Do not block stairway doors open, which would allow fire and smoke to fill the escape route if a fire occurs

## Unobstructed Corridors

- Clear exit corridors are a basic requirement for a quick exit from a burning, smoke filled, or earthquake-damaged building
- Hallways are not to be used as storage areas
- Hallway obstructions seriously hinder or prevent personnel from exiting a building quickly and easily during emergencies

## Fire Alarms

- Don't ignore a fire alarm; when an alarm sounds, **EXIT THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY**
- Do not wait until you personally detect evidence of smoke or heat, as a delay could cost you your life
- The only time to ignore a fire alarm is if you know **for sure** that the alarm is only a test

## Elevators

- Stairways should be used for exiting upper floors of a building during an emergency
- **Do not attempt** to use the elevator, as it may stop or be inoperable
- If you are a person with disabilities, refer to [Evacuation Procedures for Persons with Disabilities](#)
- If injured, follow the appropriate evacuation option below

## Evacuation Options

There are three basic evacuation options:

- **Use building exits** to the outside ground level or go into unaffected wings of multi-building complexes
- **Use stairs** to reach ground level exits from the building
- **Stay in place:**
  - The safest place to take refuge during a fire is a **stair enclosure** if contact can be made with rescue personnel
  - Unless danger is imminent, occupants can **remain in a room** with an exterior window, a telephone, and a solid or fire resistant door
  - Individuals can keep in contact with emergency response personnel after reporting the location directly
  - On-site emergency personnel will determine the necessity for evacuation

**Contact EHS:**  
safety@oregonstate.edu  
oregonstate.edu/ehs/  
541 • 737 • 2273

- Phone lines are expected to remain in service during most building emergencies
- If phone lines fail, individuals can signal from the window by waving a cloth or other visible object.
- Most appropriate for
  - Sprinkler-protected buildings
  - An occupant who is alone when the alarm sounds
- Fire resistance capability of doors can be ascertained by EH&S