Fire Safety Talk
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Primary mistake made in fires: ignoring the fire alarm
- False alarms de-sensitize students from leaving their dorm
- By the time you detect the real fire, there may be no way to escape

Primary Cause of Death and Injury: Smoke Inhalation
- Smoke generated by building fire is very toxic.
- The smoke can kill you on the scene or put you in critical condition

Top Non-Intentional cause of fires: Candles/Open Flames
- 2-3% of all candle fires happen on college campus
- Mattresses catch fire very easily
- Candles are not allowed at Wilberforce and banned in dorms by Ohio law

Pointers on Safety
1. Close your door
   a. Doors can withstand short fires; closing the door behind you can save your possessions’
      i. Doors vary in their endurance. Some doors can last over an hour
   b. Temperature can melt a fire alarm in the hallway while leaving the room normal
   c. If you’re trapped
      i. Block cracks to keep smoke from coming in
      ii. When fire dept arrives, signal for help by putting blanket/sheet outside the window or yelling
2. Stay Low
   a. Smoke rises. Avoid breathing smoke by staying close to the floor
   b. Heat rises. Staying closer to the floor will keep you away from greater heat

3. One Blast Only
   a. Fire Extinguishers are designed for waste basket size fires.
   b. If your extinguisher runs out, do not get another. Flee the area.
   c. Fire Extinguisher Tips
      i. PASS: Pull the pin, Aim at the base of the fire (not the flames), Squeeze the top handle, Sweep from side to side
   d. Rules for fighting fire
      i. Assist people with special needs from the area before fighting fire
      ii. Call 911 or activate Fire alarm
      iii. Don’t let fire get between you and exit
      iv. Know what is burning (science buildings may have unusual chemicals that can’t be fought with your extinguisher)
      v. Don’t fight fires when:
         1. You have the wrong equipment or no equip
         2. Smoke might be poisonous
         3. Don’t fight your instincts

4. If you’re trapped:
   a. Seal vents to stop smoke
   b. Signal for help
      i. by hanging sheet out of the window
      ii. yelling out the window
      iii. Dial 911
      iv. Window should only be open to signal for help since fresh air draws the fire
c. If you can’t see at all when you open the door (pitch black smoke), it’s likely too late to escape

5. Be Prepared
   a. Have a plan for getting out
   b. Know your home
      i. How many doors to stairwell
      ii. What landmark items are along the way
   c. Rally Point
      i. If everyone meets at the same place, it allows you to figure out who’s missing and why
   d. Dorms are required to have four fire drills a year (according to Ohio fire code)