

## **FIRE SAFETY FOR CAMPERS**

While you are at camp, your home away from home could be a high-rise dorm room or some other adventurous housing experience that may be very different from your own home. Your camp or program sponsor and Texas A&M University want to make sure that you are as safe as possible while you are enjoying the activities of your camp. There are a few things that you can do to help make sure your visit is a great and safe experience.

First of all, if your camp is one where you will be staying overnight, let's look at where you will be sleeping: The first thing you should do is become familiar with where your room or sleeping space will be. Make sure you know where the emergency exit stairs are located. If you cannot locate the emergency exit stairs ask your counselor or someone else involved with your camp to show you. Remember if fire alarms sound or you smell smoke NEVER, EVER get on the elevators, even if they appear to still be working. You don't want to be on your way down in one when it stops working. If you leave your room in an emergency be sure to take your key in case you have to get back into your room to wait for help or use the telephone. Your counselor may give you information on where to meet in case you have to leave your room in an emergency. Make sure you know where that place is. If you are not sure, ask your counselor. If you need to leave your room in an emergency don't wander off from the area. Only leave the area if you are told to do so by firefighters, police officers, or you camp counselors.

Once you are out of the building find your counselor and let him or her know that you are no longer in the building. If there is an emergency, your counselor will assist you in calling home as soon as it is possible. During an emergency, once you are out of a building, do not return inside the building until your counselor lets you know that it is okay to go back inside. If you are in a high-rise dorm or some other building and you are on the third floor or higher and you cannot get out of the building, it may be safest for you to stay inside your room to protect yourself from smoke. If your phone is working call 911 to report that you are in the building. Give the floor you are on and your room number. Keep smoke out of the room as

best as you can by stuffing sheets, towels, and clothes around the door. Stay down and close to the floor, the air will be better there. Do not lock the door and do not open the door without checking it with your hands to see if the door is hot. If it is hot, leave the door closed.

It is probably a bad idea to set out on your own in a smoke filled building in which you don't know your way around. Firefighters equipped with special clothes and equipment stand a better chance of reaching you if you stay where they can find you (in your room). If you walk around in smoke without special equipment you won't get far before the smoke will make you pass out. If you are close enough to the ground that you can get out through a window always consider that window as a good idea as a backup exit plan if you cannot get out the door. If you are too high off the ground make a sign that says "HELP" and put it in your window.

Emergencies are serious. Never ever make a false alarm. First of all it will get you in BIG TROUBLE and second of all no one will know which ones are false and which ones are real. Even if someone tells you it is okay to pull a fire alarm or make a 911 prank call as a joke, it is NOT okay. You could get into serious trouble with the police.

**Texas A&M University is a great place to be and we want you to be safe when you are here! Gig'em Campers!!!**