

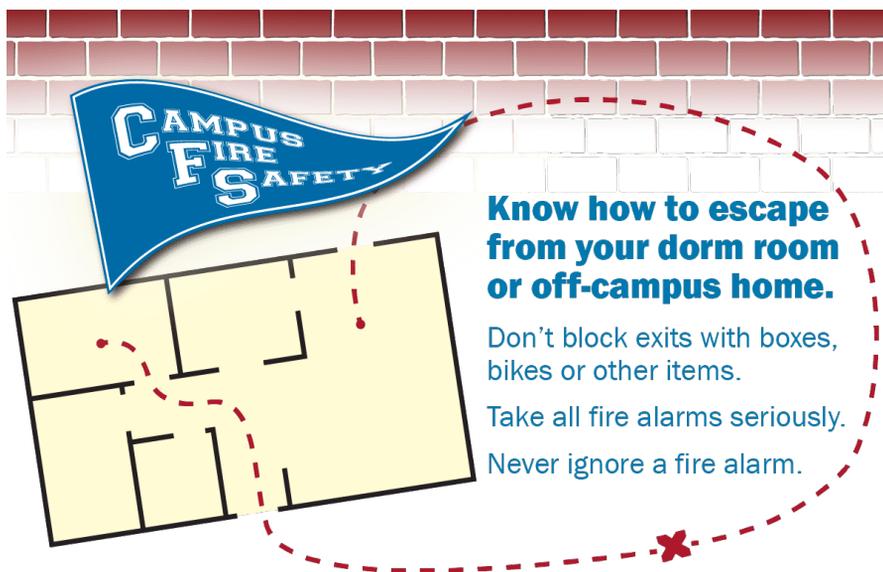
Fire Prevention Awareness

Drills & Evacuation

In order for any endeavor to be successful, planning and practice for the big moment are essential parts of the process. If you place an athlete, musician, or any other person in a high-pressure situation that they haven't practiced for, there's a pretty good chance that things aren't going to go very well.

The same is true when it comes to fire safety and surviving a [fire situation](#). Fire & emergency evacuation drills provide the opportunity to practice survival plans and scenarios *before* there are lives or property on the line.

There are many variables that may affect your plans. Anywhere you go, there may be new travel routes, obstacles, and considerations for trying to safely leave a building in an emergency situation. Once you've left the building you likely need to communicate and interact with emergency personnel and anyone else around you. It can be a very confusing and distracting situation trying to evacuate successfully during an emergency. Throw in the fact that your normal route or exit is now on fire or blocked, and things can get pretty complicated if you haven't practiced and thought about an alternate exit route beforehand.



With everything that is going on, it is important to remember that ***your first priority in a fire situation will be to get out alive.*** Planning and preparation can help you achieve this goal.

Fire Prevention Awareness

Drills & Evacuation

At Messiah University, we plan and practice four fire drills per year (two per semester). To help residents with emergency planning, an evacuation map is also provided in each on-campus dorm room and apartment.

During drills, speed isn't necessarily the primary objective – the practice is. Practicing the ability to remain calm and controlled (don't panic!) while putting your exit plan into action. Practicing what you might do if your way is blocked. Practicing your interactions with others while everyone is trying to leave at the same time. And practicing proactive thinking by asking yourself what you should have prepared if you need to leave in a hurry. Keeping a small "Go Bag" with some clothes (and other handy items) nearby can be quite useful if you have to wake up and evacuate quickly on a cold or rainy night.



Have a clear path to your exits.

This will make it easier to escape if you have a fire.



Many of the fire alarms that we have on campus end up being "non-emergency" situations. Despite this, it is vital to remain vigilant and prepared for the time that alarm turns out to be a real fire. Just like the athlete, the musician, or anyone else you can think of, you want to make sure that you're prepared to succeed when your moment arrives.