

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

— Quick Reference Guide —

Introduction

South Texas College (STC) Fire and Life Safety, found within the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Department, is responsible for developing and implementing communication with local emergency response teams. Fire and Life Safety establishes procedures that all students, faculty, staff, and guests must follow in order to comply with local laws and regulations from different municipalities, such as

the City of McAllen Fire Department, the City of Pharr Fire Department, the Rio Grande City Fire Department, and the City of Weslaco Fire Department. EHS Fire and Life Safety is designed to protect everyone on South Texas College premises by following effective local municipality fire marshal inspections and providing fire protection equipment that is operable when necessary.

Fire Safety Hazards & Standards to Follow

This information is to help prevent fire-related accidents and injuries, increase fire and life safety awareness, and fully comply with all legal and regulatory requirements. Abiding by these requirements is a shared responsibility, and all faculty, staff, students, and visitors are required to perform all South Texas College (STC) operations in compliance with applicable

International Fire Code (IFC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The following is a list of fire code standards that must be followed by all who are on STC premises. If fire protection equipment is found inoperable, please submit an email with detailed information to the Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Department.

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Appliances such as space heaters are not allowed on College premises. IFC 605.10



Extension cords cannot be used as permanent wiring and cannot be overloaded with items connected to them. IFC 605.5



Emergency Evacuation routes must be posted in all offices and classrooms throughout the College. NFPA 1



Open flames on candles or cooking equipment outside of our Cafeteria kitchen are prohibited. IFC 308.1.1



Combustible waste material and flammable liquids cannot be accumulated or improperly stored. IFC 304.1, 10.18.1



The Fire Lane and Fire Department access areas cannot be obstructed. NFPA 1, IFC 18.2.4.1



The exit signs on the exit doors must illuminate when the power goes off for people to view when evacuating in an emergency. IFC 1011.1



Light switches and outlets in all areas must be covered, and there can be no exposed electrical wiring coming from a junction box. IFC 605.6



There can be no missing ceiling tiles or openings in the ceiling of any room, and there must be proper ceiling clearance in every room. IFC 703.1/IFC 315.3.1



Mechanical rooms must not be used as storage rooms for chemicals or other items. NFPA 101, IFC 7.13.1.2/8.1.2



Pull stations for fire alarms are available in all buildings, and should be pulled when a fire breaks out. Evacuate the building immediately and call 911. NFPA 1



There are fire extinguishers on every floor of every building at the College and can be used in case of a small fire. The fire extinguisher has to be inspected annually and recharged as needed. IFC 906.2



All exit doors must not be blocked or locked in case of an emergency. IFC 1015.2/1008.1.9