

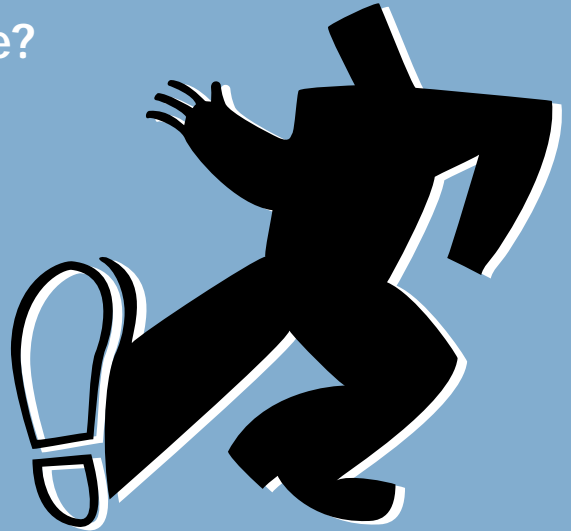
Moving into a house or apartment?

Maybe for the first time?

... Freedom

... Fun

... Your own space



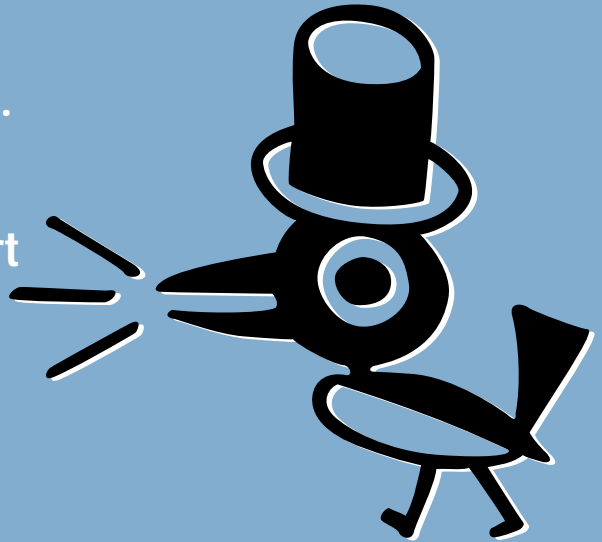
But, remember to bring with you some

Fire Safety Sense

In case of fire or suspected fire . . .

Get out and stay alive.

Then call 911 to report
the emergency.



*Since 1990, five Cal students tragically lost their lives in residential fires.
This brochure is dedicated to the memory of:*

*Brad Evans
Ryan Hamilton
Natalie James
Azalea Jusay
Robert Sciutto*

Fire Safety Sense



Protect

Take all fire alarms seriously and GET OUT!

- If you become aware of a fire or hear a fire alarm, leave the building immediately. Don't stop to take anything.
- Feel door handles lightly with the back of your hand. If they're warm, don't open them. Find another way out. If you can't get out, go to a window and signal for help using a brightly-colored object.
- Close doors behind you.
- Stay low in smoke. Air is cleaner and cooler at floor level.
- Always use the closest exit or stairway. Never use elevators.
- If you pass an alarm on your way out, pull it!
- Once outside, **don't go back!** Call 9-1-1.
- If your clothes are on fire, **stop, drop, and roll.**
- Cool burns quickly with water and get medical attention.



Prepare

Have an escape plan.

Exits

Have more than one exit.

- Map out a second exit to use if the main door is impassable. Make sure that all doors leading to the outside open fully and easily.
- Don't use hallways and stairways to store things – even temporarily. Keep them clear of obstructions that could create a barrier to your evacuation.
- Windows could be the only exit, especially from sleeping rooms. Make sure they all open fully and easily.
- If you have theft-deterrent window bars, they should have a release mechanism on the inside, usually a foot or hand pull/push. Test this device to be sure it works.

Smoke Detectors

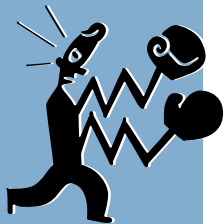
Smoke detectors are required in all housing units.

- Make sure smoke detectors are installed at a central point on the ceiling or wall in the area leading to each sleeping room, above the stairway on upper levels, and in the basement if the stairway leads to the living unit.
- When activated, the detector should be audible in each sleeping area.
- Most smoke detectors have an alarm test button. Test it monthly.
- Remove dust buildup every three months.
- A repeating chirping sound means the batteries are weak and need replacing. Don't remove the battery!
- Alkaline batteries should be replaced at least annually. Lithium batteries can last up to 10 years but need to be periodically tested.

Fire and Life Safety Equipment

If your building has fire extinguishers, know where they are.

- Check that the gauge indicates a normal charged state. Use fire extinguishers **only if you have been trained and the fire is small.**
- If you are in a multi-dwelling unit, the fire alarm may have hand-pull stations. Be sure they are visible.



Prevent

Be aware of these common fire hazards:

- USING EXTENSION CORDS IN PLACE OF PERMANENT WIRING. They could overheat, break down, and cause a fire.
- OVERLOADED ELECTRICAL OUTLETS. Use one device per outlet. Consider buying a multi-receptacle power bar with surge suppressor and circuit breaker.
- BUILDINGS THAT ARE NOT KEPT IN CLEAN AND ORDERLY CONDITION. Look for excessive piles of stored items that would contribute fuel to a fire; combustibles stored near heat sources, such as water heaters and furnaces; and overgrown plants or weeds close to the building.
- HEATERS. Floor heaters are particularly dangerous. Keep combustible materials away from them. Never place combustible materials on a floor heater grill. Space heaters are not recommended, but if you do use them, keep them at least three feet from combustibles, do not plug them into extension cords, and unplug them when not in use.
- TORCHIÈRE LAMPS WITH QUARTZ HALOGEN BULBS. These are not recommended as they burn at high temperatures. Keep them away from drapes and fabrics.
- CANDLES. Never leave candles lit while unattended. Use low-flame candles in a fitted non-combustible holder away from combustibles.

Parties and Special Events

Protect yourself and your guests:

- Limit the number of guests to avoid overcrowding that could impede quick evacuation.
- Assign one or two people as safety monitors. They should stay sober and be familiar with the building.
- Look for discarded smoking materials throughout the house, including under furniture and between cushions.
- When the party is over, place all trash outside before going to sleep. Many fires are started by smoldering materials.

Did you know that...?

- In 1999, 2,895 people in the U.S. lost their lives as a result of home fires.
- In 50% of fire fatalities, alcohol was a factor.
- Unattended cooking, careless smoking, and arson are the leading causes of fire-related injuries.
- Barbecue coals and fireplace ashes can stay hot for three days. Dispose in metal containers only and never place the container next to a building. Don't barbecue indoors.

Resources

- The Berkeley Fire Department provides free smoke detectors to single-family dwellings. Call (510) 981-5585.
- The Berkeley Fire Department conducts free window bar inspections. Call (510) 981-5586.
- The City of Berkeley Residential Rental Housing Safety Program provides for safety certification by owners, City inspection and tenant responsibilities for maintaining safety. For information and assistance, call (510) 981-5444.
- For housing listings and advice, call Cal Rentals at (510)-642-3642. Visit the rental safety page at http://calrentals.housing.berkeley.edu/rent_safety.html for information and a pre-rental checklist.
- Check out the campus fire and life safety self-inspection checklist at www.ehs.berkeley.edu/offcampusfiresafety.html. **It just might save your life!**

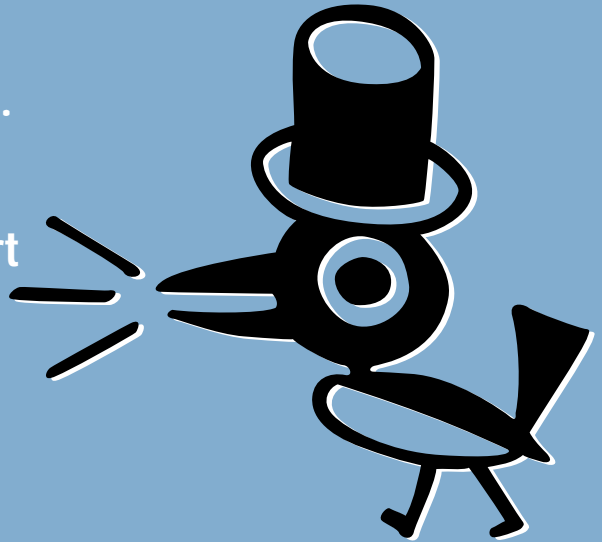


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University of California, Berkeley
Office of Environment, Health & Safety
317 University Hall #1150
Berkeley, CA 94720-1150
(510) 642-3073
www.ehs.berkeley.edu

