



# University of Houston Clear Lake

**Fire & Life Safety Code**

**2015**

## **University of Houston-Clear Lake Fire and Life Safety Code**

### **I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of the Fire and Life Safety Code is to protect University of Houston-Clear Lake faculty, staff, students, and visitors from injury and/or loss of property or life from fire. The Fire and Life Safety Code applies to all university entities, including faculty, staff, vendors, students, and contractors while on university property.

### **II. POLICY STATEMENT**

UHCL hereby adopts the current NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code as the “University of Houston-Clear Lake Fire and Life Safety Code.” UHCL is committed to the preservation of life and property through a comprehensive and viable Fire and Life Safety Code. Fire safety in educational facilities warrants special attention. Special efforts must be made to reduce the need for evacuating a building.

Educational facilities must rely on superior construction, fire prevention, early discovery, and extinguishment of incipient fires with prompt, efficient response to all suspected fire emergencies.

The UHCL Fire & Life Safety Code will emphasize prevention and whenever possible, superior design and construction of facilities.

Fire prevention will be accomplished by maintaining compliance with the university Fire and Life Safety Code and through the establishment of good fire and life safety work habits at the university. The administration of UHCL is committed to this Fire and Life Safety Code as a means to prevent the loss of life and reduce property losses, which may occur when fire strikes.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Authority Having Jurisdiction: The organization, office, or individual responsible for approving equipment, an installation, or a procedure regarding compliance with the Fire and Life Safety Code.
- B. Fire Codes: Local, state, or NFPA regulations related to fire protection and prevention.
- C. Fire Marshal: An employee of the University of Houston-Clear Lake who has been empowered to manage the Fire Prevention and Protection Program. The Director of Emergency Management and Fire Safety shall be appointed the UHCL Fire Marshal and is empowered to act for the University Administration in all matters related to fire and life safety.
- D. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): An international voluntary organization to promote fire protection and establish safeguards against loss of life and property.

### **IV. OBJECTIVES**

- A. To prevent fire-related incidents on the University of Houston-Clear Lake campus.
- B. To reduce the number of accidental and malicious false fire alarms
- C. To ensure that proper fire and life safety practices are conducted on campus.
- D. To ensure compliance with sound fire safety practices through a comprehensive inspection program.
- E. To provide on-going fire safety education to faculty, staff, and students.
- F. To provide state-of-the-art information from the national code or standard- making agencies concerning fire and life safety.
- G. To provide fire and life safety expertise relevant to the development of evacuation plans.

- H. To ensure that renovation projects and new construction meet national standards of practice for fire and life safety.

## **V. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The university Fire Marshal acts as the Authority Having Jurisdiction in matters concerning fire and life safety. The Fire Marshal's Office of UHCL is responsible for the implementation of all aspects of the Fire and Life Safety Code, for maintaining compliance with all codes and standards applicable to fire and life safety, and for establishing proven fire safety work practices at the university.

### **A. University Fire Marshal Responsibilities**

1. To fulfill the role of university Fire Marshal and provide ex-officio representation to the appropriate safety committee(s).
2. To provide fire safety training in the proper use of portable fire extinguishers, fire safety work practices, and respond to all suspected fire and hazardous material emergencies.
3. To provide expertise and assistance in the development of evacuation plans and conduct evacuation drills as required.
4. To review plans and specifications concerning renovation projects and new construction for fire and life safety concerns.
5. To serve as the Authority Having Jurisdiction in all fire and life safety issues.
6. To inspect all university facilities for fire and life safety concerns and to provide corrective actions.
7. To ensure maintenance of all fire extinguishers and fire hoses on university property.
8. To serve as the university liaison to the Houston Fire Department, Pasadena Fire Department and the County and State Fire Marshal's Office.

9. To oversee and maintain training for the Building Fire Warden program.
10. To issue all Hot Work permits for welding, cutting and open flame operations on campus.
11. To issue permits for the temporary impairment of fire protection systems.
12. To provide permits for the installation of fire protection systems.
13. To investigate the cause and origin of all fires which occur on university property.
14. To inspect and authorize microwaves and other heat generating devices initially and every two years thereafter.

**B. Facilities Maintenance Responsibilities**

1. To ensure fire protection systems are maintained and the maintenance work is documented either by Facilities Maintenance personnel or by an outside vendor.
2. Testing of all fire pumps, sprinkler systems, smoke and heat detectors, fire alarm systems, and fire hydrants.
3. To provide the university Fire Marshal copies of all documents related to maintenance of fire-related systems.