



# Building Emergency Policies and Procedures

For

Van Wormer Hall  
2614 Mc Micken Circle  
Cincinnati, OH 45221

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University of Cincinnati  
Department of Public Safety Department

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## **A. Introduction**

The University of Cincinnati is committed to providing a safe and environment for students, employees, and guests. One means of achieving that goal is the development of Building Emergency Plans.

It is impossible to predict campus emergencies or the magnitude of such emergencies. The complexity of a campus like the University of Cincinnati requires the full support of departments, faculty, staff, and students to successfully implement a Building Emergency Plan. The development, distribution, and familiarization of Building Emergency Plans are essential for student and employee safety.

Guidelines in this sample plan document are reflective of policies/procedures in place at the University of Cincinnati Department of Public Safety, Cincinnati Fire Department, and Ohio Fire Marshall. All permanent and transient building occupants should become familiar with the information contained in these Building Emergency Plans.

## **B. Components of Van Wormer Hall**

### **1. Building Components**

The Van Wormer building is occupied on all four floors with classrooms/ computer lab and office space. The fire alarm panel is located on the ground floor, entrance on the north side of the building. The building is protected by a sprinkler system and is monitored by a Simplex fire alarm panel. The system is outfitted with an addressable feature to notify the building occupants when an emergency is occurring.

### **2. Emergency System Components**

Audible fire alarms are designed to notify building occupants whenever fire alarm pull stations, smoke detectors, heat detectors, or fire sprinkler systems go into activation. Building occupants may receive additional verbal warning information through the fire alarm speaker system, and visual alarm notification via strobe warning lights, both co-located in most university buildings. Note: smoke and heat detector installation may be limited to specific areas of some buildings. Automatic fire sprinkler systems are used to protect building occupants and contents in residence halls, classrooms, meeting rooms, and most indoor places of assembly. Whenever anyone of these aforementioned systems is activated, notification is automatically transmitted to the University of Cincinnati 911 Communications Center responsible to dispatch appropriate resources to the respective emergency.

Several different types of fire extinguishers are installed throughout university buildings. Specific building hazards are the key factor used to determine the types of fire extinguishers installed. Van Wormer contains mostly ABC type extinguishers used for fires fueled by paper, flammable liquids, and electrical fires. Fire extinguishers are maintained by Facilities Management.

### **3. Area of Rescue Assistance**

ARA is an area where persons unable to use stairways can remain temporarily to await instructions or assistance during emergency evacuation. The Areas of Rescue Assistance located in the Van Wormer building are on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors in stairwell B. For a complete list of ARA campus location, please see the UC Emergency Management website.

### **C. Building Hours and Security**

Van Wormer Hall is unlocked and open to the public 7am to 7pm, Monday through Friday. Access outside of those hours is limited to those faculty and staff members who have been permitted access, by way of their UC ID card, by their supervisor. The building may also be unlocked and occupied on weekends.

### **D. Calling 911 on campus/ UC Communications Center**

The University of Cincinnati 911 Communications Center is interconnected with other communications centers operated by the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and Clermont County. All four centers operate 24/365. All 911 calls using campus phones will be routed to the UC Communications Center regardless from which campus a call is placed. A 911 call from a cell phone will typically (but not always) be routed to the nearest city or county dispatch center. It is imperative that whenever placing a 911 call using a cell phone from any location that the caller provides the call-taker with the specific UC Campus and location where emergency assistance is needed. For example: 911 call takers are trained to ask callers, "911, where is your emergency"? The caller should reply, "The University of Cincinnati Blue Ash Campus; Walters Hall; Room 144". The city/county center receiving the call will ask for some additional information and then transfer the caller to the UC Communications Center while simultaneously notifying emergency responders in the appropriate geographical area.

### **E. Accounting for occupants after evacuations**

Building Safety Points of Contacts (POC) will attempt to account for all occupants after a building evacuation. Building occupants are strongly urged to check in at predetermined building evacuation collection points for accountability purposes, and so that emergency responders do not have to unnecessarily enter buildings searching for "missing" building occupants. Building Safety POCs will report any missing occupants and their last known location to emergency responders.

### **F. Building Safety Point of Contact - Responsibilities and Contact Information**

Building Safety POCs are required for each Department. These individuals (or alternates) are responsible to make all reasonable efforts to ensure that evacuation/relocation takes place when an emergency alarm system is activated or a severe weather alert necessitates relocation within a building. Building Safety POCs will not jeopardize personal safety while attempting to ensure that building occupants have taken appropriate protective actions. Building Safety POCs are also responsible to account for departmental employees and visitors who may have assembled at the designated evacuation/relocation points post building evacuation/relocation. UC Public

Safety Emergency Management and Fire Inspectors will provide additional information to Building Safety POCs and alternates upon request.

Building Safety POCs are responsible to maintain a list of Building Safety POC alternates, and to ensure that all building occupants have received a copy of the Building Emergency Plan.

**Building Safety Points of Contact**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Building Safety Point of Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Floor</b>
<b>Primary</b>	<b>Carol Grundrum</b>	<b>556-4341</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Back up</b>			
<b>Primary</b>	<b>Jourdan Powers</b>	<b>556-2588</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> floor</b>
<b>Back up</b>			
<b>Primary</b>	<b>Scott Page</b>	<b>556-6920</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> floor</b>
<b>Back up</b>			
<b>Primary</b>	<b>Lauren Thomas</b>	<b>556-4033</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> floor</b>
<b>Back up</b>			

**G. Persons with Disabilities – Special Circumstances**

**1. Fire Emergencies**

Disabled or non-ambulatory individuals located above or below the ground floor have the option to remain in the building during an emergency when the use of an elevator is essential for evacuation.

- a. If located on the ground floor, exit the building the same as other building occupants.
- b. If located above or below the ground floor, seek a safe place—preferably a designated Area of Refuge, or a room with an exterior window, a telephone, and a solid door.

- Call Emergency Dispatch (911) and advise that you are a person or with a person who is non-ambulatory or has a physical disability. Give your exact location – Campus, Building, Room number, and the phone number from which you are calling.
- Upon arrival, the fire department will determine the best protective action for disabled or non-ambulatory building occupants.

## **2. Severe Weather Emergencies**

Assist persons with disabilities to severe weather shelter locations. Elevators may be used by individuals who are disabled or non-ambulatory.

## **H. Emergency Types / Evacuation and Relocation Points**

### **1. Fire: the following actions should be taken whenever a person encounters smoke, fire, burning odors, or fire alarm activation:**

- Activate the nearest fire alarm pull station while exiting the building
- If possible, close all doors and windows
- DO NOT USE THE ELEVATORS
- Exit the building as quickly as possible and call 911 once outside
- The Van Wormer Building Assembly Location is on the sidewalk next to University Pavilion.
- Building Safety POCs will account for all employees and visitors and advise the fire department of relevant information. Note: advise the fire department of only the information that is known. Do not guess.
- Building Safety POCs must report missing employees/visitors and the last known locations to emergency personnel
- Await further instructions from emergency personnel
- Do not reenter a building unless approved by emergency responders

### **Fire Drill or Fire Alarm**

- Fire Drills are planned and scheduled. Public Safety conducts fire drills in university buildings as required by the Ohio Fire Code.
- Fire Alarms are not planned and building emergency plans should be followed until the cause of the alarm has been determined or the emergency resolved.

**Note:** *Unless otherwise stipulated, the Ohio Fire Code mandates evacuation of building occupants whenever a fire alarm is activated. All fire alarms are emergencies until resolved by UC Public Safety or authorities having jurisdiction.*

### **2. Severe Weather: Campus warning systems will be activated for tornado warnings (i.e. a tornado has been sighted in the alert area).**

- Take shelter inside of a building relocation area designated for tornados. For a complete list of Severe Weather Shelter locations, please see the Emergency Management website.
- Elevator use is restricted except for persons who are non-ambulatory

- Severe weather safety locations for Van Wormer are designated as the lower level, interior hallway, lower stairwells, and any lower level restrooms without glass windows or doors
- Await further instruction from Public Safety before leaving the relocation area

### **3. Bomb Threats / Suspicious Activities: In the event of a bomb threat, suspicious package or suspicious item:**

- Do not use cell phones or radios to make a report (e.g. cellular phones/radios could activate a bomb or suspicious device)
- Call 911 using a landline phone
- Do not move or open items
- Remove all individuals from the immediate area, lock the door, secure the building, and assemble with your department on the sidewalk next to University Pavilion.

### **4. Illness or Injury**

For illness or injuries requiring medical assistance, call 911 from a UC landline to reach the UC 911 Communications Center. Calling 911 from a cell phone will typically contact the nearest 911 Communications Center. However, when using a cell phone, make sure to inform the dispatcher of your exact location including campus, building, and room number.

- After notifying 911, the dispatcher will send emergency medical assistance as needed
- Someone should meet emergency services at the building entrance to escort emergency personnel directly to the ill/injured person

### **5. Active Shooter**

#### ➤ **RUN:**

- If you can escape an active shooting, run.
- Run immediately – leave everything behind.
- Encourage others to escape with you, but do not wait on them.
- Once you are safely away from the shooter call, or have someone call, 911 and report what you know.

#### ➤ **HIDE:**

- If escape appears impossible, hide
- Lock and barricade doors, turn off lights, silence cell phones completely, remain quiet
- Take cover behind furniture or fixtures away from doorways.
- Stay away from windows
- Prepare yourself and others for FIGHT

#### ➤ **FIGHT:**

- If running or hiding are not possible or fail, and you are confronted by the aggressor, fight

- Use items around you as weapons to fight
- Fight to create an opportunity to escape

### **I. Emergency Responders**

Van Wormer Hall is served by the UC Public Safety (556-1111), the Cincinnati Fire Department, Environmental Health and Safety (556-4968), University Health Services and Facilities Management (558-2500) personnel. All immediate emergency concerns can be directed through the UC 911 Communications, by dialing 911 from any UC phone.

### **J. Major Fire Hazards for Van Wormer Hall**

There are no major fire hazards in Van Wormer Hall. No large chemicals quantities are stored in this building.

### **K. Identification and Assignment of persons responsible for maintenance of systems to control and prevent fires**

The fire alarm system is maintained by the University of Cincinnati's Emergency Services Personnel. The university's Facilities Management Department maintains the building operations and housekeeping. They may be reached by contacting the University of Cincinnati's dispatch center at 911 or 556-1111 (non-emergency).

### **L. Identification and assignment of personnel who can be contacted for further information on duties under this plan**

UC Public Safety Emergency Management may be contacted at 513-556-4900.