



Information from the Safety Unit | September 2019

ARE WE READY FOR FIRE AT HOME OR AT WORK?

Did you know?

50,000 fires were recorded in Israel during 2018 that had claimed the lives of 20 people.

In every fire a material reacts with oxygen.

The oxidation process can be slow (fermentation, corrosion) or rapid, accompanied by the release of heat and flames.

Most of the casualties during the fire are a result of smoke inhalation and not by the the burning fire! When trapped in a fire zone - always try to crouch or crawl under the smoke layer close to the floor, since the smoke rises upwards.

Most of the fires occur in private houses. **The recommendations for house protection include a smoke detector that works on batteries and a fire extinguisher.** The smoke detectors are not expensive and its installation is easy. Smoke detectors should predominantly be installed in bedrooms and in the living areas, not too close to the kitchen stove in order to prevent false alarms.

Due to the rainy winter and the plenitude of vegetation, the Firefighting and Rescue Commissioner issued this summer an order that prohibits lighting fires in open areas. The order is effective annually between July 21st to September 26th, between the hours 07:00-20:00.

The most prominent causes of fires are electric appliances, due to overload or short circuits. Every fire is considered an electric fire until disconnection of the main power switch.

Fire prevention:

1. Ensure appliances are in good working order.
2. Prevent socket overload. Do not use water due to an electrocution hazard. Know where the main power switch is located at home and at work.

Burning oil and flammable liquids: if a pot or a frying pan catches fire, **do not pour water over the burning oil!** Instead, cut off the gas supply and cover the pot or the frying pan with a damp towel or a lid. Pouring water on the burning oil will cause the water to boil because of the immediate spread of water vapors together with burning oil drops. The fire will then be intensified and rise instantaneously. It is important to demonstrate it and practice it with children.

Extinguishing means must suit the type of fire:

Burning solids - can be extinguished by water, sand, powder extinguisher. When using water, make sure to first cut the power supply.

Flammable liquids - foam or powder or halon extinguisher. Do not put out burning liquids with water!

Information sources: Israel Firefighting and Rescue Site
https://www.gov.il/he/departments/firefighting_and_rescue_israel



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Combustible gases (cooking gas, hydrogen) – dry powder or halon extinguisher.

Electric fire - dry powder or halon extinguisher. Do not pour water on "live" electricity due to the danger of an electric shock!

Burning of light metals (aluminum, magnesium, lithium) - special fire extinguisher, yellow in color. Do not extinguish with water!

SAFETY INCIDENTS AT THE TECHNION

Fires occur at the Technion once every few weeks. For example: during the summer there were a few air conditioning systems caught fire in the students' dormitories. In addition, more widespread fires, with a great destruction potential occurred: a fire occurred at the Faculty of Chemistry that involved the activation of three sprinkler systems. The fire – which was due to an unanticipated reaction taking place between hazardous chemicals stored within a lab refrigerator - caused major damage to equipment.

Most of the fires at the Technion are extinguished or handled initially by the emergency team that replies to the fire alarm instituted by the multiple fire alarm systems spread out throughout the campus and connected to the security command center.

In case you have discovered a fire, keep calm and act according to the following instructions:

1. Shout "fire" loudly. Activate the fire alarm
2. Identify the fire location.
3. Notify the security center 04-8292222 re the fire and its exact location. Give them your name and your phone number. At home dial 102 to the firefighting services.
4. Switch off the main power supply.
5. Use an extinguisher for putting out the fire
6. Locate emergency exits and evacuate people from the building to the nearest assembly point.
7. Act with discretion and do not endanger yourself and/or others. Show situation is under control and prevent panic.
8. Open doors carefully and close them after you exit, if possible. Do not lock doors!
9. Crawl under the smoke if it has already built up.
10. Remember: do not use the elevator.
11. Do not spray water on electrical cabinets or appliances.
12. Nozzles and rollers (water extinguishing equipment) shall be operated by authorized persons only.
13. Remain outside! Do not return to the building under any circumstances.
14. Appoint a person who shall direct the fire team to the incident location. Draw their attention to trapped persons.
15. **Correct behavior:** disconnection of energy and gas sources, routing persons to the emergency exit, crawling in case of smoke, keeping the doors closed, cooperation with the firefighting and rescue forces.
16. **Escape**

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You are trapped in a burning building, what should you do?

Crouch or crawl under the smoke layer close to the floor along the wall and look for the nearest emergency exit.

If it is not possible to get out, go into the closest room, close the door and open a window to get fresh air.

Prevent the fire and the smoke from penetrating into your apartment by using a wet blanket or towel. If needed, cover the mouth and the nose with a wet cloth. Go to the nearest window and breath fresh air.

How to put out your own clothes which have caught on fire ?

So not run. Running intensifies the fire. Carefully drop to the floor and roll over and over until the fire is out. Cover your face with your hands. If you encounter a burning person, make him drop to the floor and roll him until the fire is out.