The best way to prevent fire is to minimize its potential through the observation of safe work practices and housekeeping.

You should observe the following basic rules:

☑ Keep chemical storage areas neat and clean.

☑ Always plan laboratory work before executing it. Providing for safety and avoiding potential accidents are important elements of the plan. You should understand the hazards associated with the chemicals involved before you start the experiment.

☑ Know where to find and how to use all emergency equipment (such as fire extinguishers, eye washes, and safety showers) in the laboratory.

☑ Keep hood sash closed or as low as possible to save energy (VAV hoods) and maximize safety to laboratory personnel.

☑ Do not store large quantities of flammable, combustible or flammable gases outside a flammable liquid or gas cabinet.

☑ Maintain electrical equipment in good working order. Periodically check for potential electrical hazards such as frayed cords, broken plugs and overloaded electrical outlets. Avoid using extension cords.

☑ Do not block or hamper passageways or exit doors. NO storage in exit corridors or stairways.

☑ Do not store combustible items such as paper and cardboard against electrical panels, in telephone closets, stairwells, and corridors.

☑ Avoid accumulating excessive paper products and corrugated materials.
**General Evacuation Guidelines**

- If the fire alarm is activated - **STOP** all activities and immediately initiate an evacuation.
- If it is safe to do so, **close doors behind you as you exit**.
- If you encounter visitors or guests - assist as necessary - go to the closest emergency exit.
- **Follow EXIT** signs to the nearest fire stairwell.
- **Do NOT use elevators**.
- **Go to your designated meeting site**.
- Please wait for further instructions.
- **Do NOT** re-enter the building until authorized by HUPD or the CFD.

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**Designated Meeting Sites**

- **Primary Meeting Site** - Front Lawn of Yenching Library
- **Secondary Meeting Site** - Courtyard of Biological Laboratories

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**If You Discover a Fire**

**RELOCATE** - If safe to do so, **relocate** people in immediate danger. Be aware of persons who may need assistance.

**ALARM** - Pull the building fire **alarm** to alert others. Fire pull stations are typically near the fire exits and main exits.

**CONFINE** - **Close** all doors as you exit your office, if safe to do so.

**EVACUATE** - **Evacuate** the building. Do not use elevators. Report to your designated meeting site.

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**Fire/Medical Emergency**

- **911**

**Harvard University Police Department (HUPD)**

- **(617) 495-1212**