2.729   FIRES

2.729.02   Assumptions

A. This agency is assigned certain response and recovery responsibilities during on-campus fires consistent with The TU Emergency Operations Plan **(EOP) 2.03 Response and Recovery Responsibilities and Matrices**.

B. The Baltimore County Fire Department (BCFD) is responsible for providing comprehensive fire protection, emergency medical and emergency rescue, and HAZMAT response to the TU campus.

C. The Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshall is the lead investigative agency for on-campus fires unless otherwise ordered by a commander.

D. TUPD officers primarily provide support roles during fire operations by protecting firefighters and equipment from persons who would willfully interfere with fire suppression activities, providing traffic and crowd control, closing nearby streets to prevent other persons from becoming endangered, protecting and preserving potential crime scenes, and ensuring motorists do not drive over fire hoses.

E. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) is the initial point of contact for tort claims, such as fire damage related insurance claims.

F. Fires could range from TU EOP **Type 1 through type 5 Incidents** consistent with **2.704 Unplanned Incident Classifications.**

G. Other fire safety documents and plans are on the **Environmental Health and Safety** web site.

2.729.04   Plan

A. Incident Response:

1. For reports of fire alarms with no known reports of smoke or fire, officers:
   a. Consistent with **2.402.12 Fire Alarms** have approximately two minutes from their arrival to determine if true fire emergencies exist before Communications notifies Baltimore County 911;
   b. May enter buildings on their own without waiting for second officers;
   c. May use elevators that have not been recalled for firefighter access to ride up to not less than two floors below locations of suspected incidents.
      (1) University elevators are connected to fire alarm systems so that elevators are automatically recalled to certain floors when fire alarms are activated.
      (2) Elevators are usually recalled to building lobbies, but incidents in lobbies will cause elevators to be recalled to either one floor above or below lobbies.
      (3) Recalled elevators can be operated only in a firefighter's service mode by using a firefighters' service key;
   d. Will carefully evaluate fire safety conditions before proceeding through any stairwells and hallways or opening doors to determine whether or not fire emergencies exist; and
   e. Frequently broadcast their exact locations and incident related observations and findings to Communications.

2. For reports or discoveries of actual fire emergencies, officers:
   a. Will notify Communications of the location, size, and type upon discovery;
   b. Will activate fire alarms if not already activated;
   c. Should, if electing to enter buildings, do so in pairs and only to activate alarms or for potential rescues;
   d. Should ensure persons are alerted in nearby buildings if they are threatened;
   e. Will not use elevators;
   f. Will periodically pause to carefully evaluate fire safety conditions before proceeding through any stairwells and hallways or opening doors to determine whether or not it is safe to go in that particular direction;
   g. Will frequently broadcast their exact locations and incident related observations and findings to Communications; and
   h. Will be alert to and act upon periodic updates from Communications, especially for situational awareness information and increased threats to officers' safety;

    i. Will ensure required notifications are made to commanders, MD State Fire Marshals, EHS, etc; and

    j. Provide strict perimeter security to fire scenes.

      (1) Fire scenes are fully under control and direction of the BCFD until they release scenes to local authorities.

      (2) People must be moved out of immediate incident scene areas, but must remain nearby and available to speak with investigating personnel.

      (3) Other than responding police, fire, Environmental Health and Safety, and Emergency Medical Services personnel, persons are not to touch anything, conduct searches, move or disturb anything at incident scenes.

      (4) People who inadvertently or purposefully enter incident scenes without permission must be stopped and identified. Trespassers should be dealt with consistent with **2.435 Trespassing**.

B. **Incident Command**: Fires that require the response of BCFD are **Type 4 Incidents** or higher incidents. In these incidents, the initially responding TUPD supervisor or commander will have duties and responsibilities that include, but are not limited to:

1. Establishing initial field command posts;

2. Ensuring Communications activates appropriate components of the TU Alerts System;

3. Assuming and exercising supervision and control of incidents by notifying and coordinating the activities of on-scene and responding officers;

4. Assessing actions taken by responding officers, making any modifications or adjustments as necessary;

5. Briefing, <u>including the names, unit numbers, and locations of all agency officers involved in the incident</u>, and releasing command and control of incidents to the BCFD as the lead agency in a Unified Command;

6. Ensuring pedestrian and vehicle access is appropriately restricted and controlled as long as necessary;

7. Developing lists of displaced persons;

8. Ensuring appropriate departmental and university officials are notified as soon as possible;

9. Ensuring information is released consistent with **2.429 Public Information** and applicable sections of **2.706 Incident Command Organization**;

10. <u>After fire scenes have been released by fire departments and any investigative agencies</u>, ensuring that:

    a. Security measures are in place preventing unauthorized entry and warning the public of any existing dangers; and

    b. Displaced persons can retrieve their valuables or other items if safe to do so; and

11. Ensuring this agency's activities are promptly documented in agency reports and supplements.