**University of Limerick**

**Building Emergency Plan**

**XXXXXXXXXXXXX Building**

# Introduction

The University of Limerick has a two-tiered systematic approach to the management of emergencies. Emergencies/crises are divided into.

* those that occur at a Departmental or Building level and can be dealt with, in the first instance, at that level (e.g., small chemical spill, fire resulting in damage to a confined area within a building). This type of emergency is dealt within the Departmental Emergency Plan. Each Department has its own Departmental Emergency Plan. Personnel from the Buildings Department and the Safety Officer will be involved.
* those that affect the wider campus or the operation and good name of the University and require a response at an Executive level. This type of emergency/crisis is dealt with in the Critical Incident Management Plan. Building Emergency Plans link into the Critical Incident Management Plan, i.e., on activation of the Critical Incident Management Plan, individual Building Emergency Plans may be activated.

# SCOPE

This is a Building Emergency Plan and applies to all departments and occupants of the XXXXXXX Building.

The document is divided into two sections.

**Section 1** should be read by all relevant staff named in the document and essentially sets out policy and detailed duties and responsibilities including responsibilities for maintaining the plan.

**Section 2** is the functional part of the document and should be used in the event of an emergency. It sets out actions to be taken and by whom. It also includes a map of the building which can be given to the emergency services.

###### Section 1

# 

# 1. COORDINATION WITH OTHER EMERGENCY PLANS

This emergency plan is a key component of departmental safety arrangements and University crisis management and must be coordinated with these other plans.

**University of Limerick Critical Incident Management Plan**

In the event of a campus wide emergency the University of Limerick Critical Incident Management Plan will be activated. The Building Emergency Plan is a component of the Critical Incident Management Plan.

# 2. Requirements of the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005

This plan satisfies the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act with respect to emergency plans and takes account of existing Departmental Codes of Practice/Local Safety Statement.

# 3. Roles and Responsibilities of Departmental personnel - (to include staff of contractors and any other businesses based on university premises)

## 3.1 All staff are responsible for:

1. Being familiar with and following emergency procedures when required.
2. Participating in drills and training as required.
3. Orienting and informing students and visitors of procedures to be followed in case of an emergency. Students should have a brief orientation on the first day of class to ensure that they are aware that evacuation is required, when the alarm system is activated, and that they know where the nearest exits are located. Visitors unfamiliar with building procedures should be informed and assisted as appropriate.

## 3.2 HOD’s / Centre Director’s / local managers are responsible for:

an Acting as Evacuation Co-ordinator (or appoint an alternate) to implement and manage emergency evacuation procedures in their Building.

b Appoint sufficient evacuation/assembly point stewards.

c Ensuring that resources are available to all to fulfil their role.

d Ensuring recommendations are implemented

## 3.3 Evacuation Co-Ordinator

## The Evacuation Co-Ordinator has the following responsibilities:

1. The Evacuation Co-ordinator acts as the liaison with the responding emergency service, the Health and Safety Unit and others if a departmental emergency occurs. In their absence, the alternates are responsible for carrying out the requirements. If an emergency happens when these members of the department are not available, the most senior employee will have decision-making authority.
2. For a campuswide event the Evacuation Co-ordinator or an alternate will establish contact with the University of Limerick Critical Incident Management Centre. The Evacuation Co-ordinator may then activate a full evacuation of the building.
3. Ensure that the Building Emergency Plan is kept up to date. The plan should be reviewed annually with the assistance of the University Health and Safety Unit. The plan must be available to all staff and students in the building.
4. Assign Evacuation Stewards and Assembly Point Stewards (and alternates) and ensure that they know what their duties are in case of an evacuation. Each department in the XXXXXXXXX Building must allocate sufficient Evacuation Stewards dependent on department operations to allow two to assist in the evacuation of disabled persons, one to check all areas in the department and one alternate. Sufficient Assembly Point Stewards should be appointed, one as an alternate. A current list of Evacuation Stewards and Assembly Point Stewards is given in appendix 1.
5. Ensure students are informed by lecturers about emergency procedures, exit routes, and assembly points on the first day of the first term.
6. In conjunction with the University Safety Officer, conduct and record fire drills.
7. During a fire alarm and evacuation, the Evacuation Co-ordinator or the alternate must report to Assembly Point X and then act as a liaison with emergency services and do the following:

* Receive status reports from evacuation stewards.
* Provide information about the building layout, systems, processes, and special hazards to emergency personnel. A copy of section 2 of this plan should be available to the emergency services.
* Ensure that all evacuation stewards return to the primary assembly point.
* Coordinate with Buildings staff and Safety Officer

1. Assign Assembly Point Stewards or other assigned personnel, as needed, to be stationed by all building entrances to prevent unsuspecting personnel from re-entering the building and to direct persons to the nearest assembly point. When an "ALL CLEAR" is given by the fire officer in charge/Gardai, the Evacuation Co-ordinator notifies the Evacuation Stewards that staff and students may re-enter the building.

## 3.4 Duties of the Evacuation Stewards

1. Be familiar with the "Building Emergency Plan"
2. Know where persons with disabilities are in your area and what their alarm response will be (See appendix 2). Know the location of the -emergency evacuation chair (if there is one in the building). The condition of the chair lift must be checked once per term. Damage to the chair lift must be reported to the Buildings and Estates Office.
3. Coordinate with the other Evacuation Stewards on your floor to work together and avoid duplication of tasks. Evacuation Stewards systematically check through their designated area to ensure all staff and students have evacuated.
4. Walk over your primary and secondary evacuation routes at least once per term to familiarise yourself with emergency exits and routes to the assembly point(s).
5. Check that the evacuation hi vis vests for your area are in place during evacuation drills. If they are missing report to the Evacuation Co-ordinator immediately upon detection
6. Attend training sessions and meetings to review procedures and duties, if necessary. The Health and Safety Unit organises Emergency Evacuation training sessions. Contact [hnsbookings@ul.ie](mailto:hnsbookings@ul.ie) to request training as required.
7. Know where hazardous conditions or situations in your area may exist. Know the location of flammable and other hazardous materials e.g. gas cylinders.
8. Know where the phones and fire alarm break glass units are and how to operate them.
9. Know how the alarm system works.

### 3.5 Duties of the Assembly Point Stewards

1. Be familiar with the "Building Emergency Plan"
2. Walk over your primary and secondary evacuation routes at least once per term to familiarise yourself with emergency exits and routes to the assembly points.
3. Check that megaphones are in working order during evacuation drills. Report any faults to the Evacuation Co-ordinator immediately upon detection.
4. Attend training sessions and meetings to review procedures and duties, if necessary. Emergency Evacuation Training sessions are organised by the Health and Safety Unit. Contact [hnsbookings@ul.ie](mailto:hnsbookings@ul.ie) to request training as required.

## 

## 3.6 Lecturer’s Responsibility

1. Provide their class or audience with general information relating to emergency procedures. This information should be shared during the first week of class or at the start of a seminar.
2. Know how to report an emergency from the classroom/lecture being used.
3. Ensure that persons with disabilities are familiar with their escape route/method.
4. Take charge of the classroom and follow emergency procedures for all building alarms and emergencies.
5. Ensure the prompt evacuation of all attendees upon activation of the continuous fire alarm.

**4. Normal Hours** **EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES:**

**A. ON THE DISCOVERY OF A FIRE:**

1. Raise the alarm by breaking the nearest available break glass point.
2. Alert the emergency services by phoning 999/112. Phone extension 061 21**3333** to report the fire.
3. If the fire is small and contained staff should consider using the nearest appropriate appliance provided if you have been trained to do so and ensuring that the extinguisher is compatible with the fire e.g., **do not use water on electrical or flammable liquid fires.**

**IMPORTANT: Under no circumstances should students tackle the fire.**

**B ON HEARING A CONTINUOUS ALARM:**

Evacuate the building in the following manner:

1. WALK (do not run) to the nearest exit point briskly.
2. Do NOT delay picking up personal belongings. This could hinder evacuation of the building and put not only your own life in danger but also the lives of others.
3. Disconnect all electrical appliances if it safe to do so.
4. Close all doors behind you (where practical).
5. Do not use lifts. In the event of an emergency, electrical connections to lifts are disconnected.
6. DO NOT RESTRICT EGRESS BY CONGREGATING IN THE STAIRWELLS OR OUTSIDE THE BUILDING EXITS.
7. Assemble at the assembly point(s) designated for the building. It is important to assemble at this assembly point, following the routes clearly marked, to avoid congestion and to allow unhindered access to the emergency services.
8. During the evacuation and on arrival at the designated assembly points it is essential to follow the stewards’ instructions as they endeavour to keep adjacent areas clear.
9. Do NOT re-enter the buildings until authorised by the assembly point steward.
10. To relieve congestion on re-entering the building, it is important to use the same route by which you exited the building.

**5. OUTSIDE NORMAL WORKING HOURS:**

**A ON THE DISCOVERY OF A FIRE:**

1. Raise the alarm by breaking the nearest available break glass point.
2. Alert the emergency services by phoning 999/112. Phone extension 061 21**3333** to report the fire.
3. If the fire is small and contained staff should consider using the nearest appropriate appliance provided if they have been trained to do so and ensuring that the extinguisher is compatible with the fire e.g., **do not use water on electrical or flammable liquid fires.**

**IMPORTANT: Under no circumstances should students tackle the fire.**

**B ON HEARING A CONTINUOUS ALARM:**

Evacuate the building in the following manner:

1. WALK (do not run) to the nearest exit point briskly.
2. Do NOT delay picking up personal belongings. This could hinder evacuation of the building and put not only your own life in danger but also the lives of others.
3. Disconnect all electrical appliances if safe to do so.
4. Close all doors behind you (where practical).
5. Do not use lifts. In the event of an emergency, electrical connections to lifts are disconnected.
6. Assemble at the assembly point designated for the building. Await instructions of security staff.
7. Do NOT re-enter the buildings until authorised by the security staff.

Section 2 Functional Plan

### A. Porter Function – Fire Alarm activated automatically.

On hearing the alarm security / porter / buildings staff will have the following responsibilities:

1. Go to the main panel to ascertain the location of the alarm activation.
2. Proceed immediately to the area indicated on the panel readout and determine if it is a genuine alarm.
3. If there is a false alarm return to the panel and mute the sounders, reset the panel and advise Main Reception via radio or phone. Advise the Evacuation Co-ordinator.
4. If there is a fire and it is small you may attempt to fight it with the ‘first-aid’ appliances available.
   * 1. DO NOT go into areas containing smoke
     2. DO NOT go into areas where you can see established fire
     3. If you find a door closed, feel it with the back of your hand before opening – if it is hot DO NOT OPEN IT
5. Summon assistance by contacting the emergency services 999/112. State there is a fire in the University of Limerick XXXXXX Building. Give your name and state that a security person will be sent to the West Gate if required.
6. Report the fire to Main Reception (by radio or phone ext. 3333 or 061 21**3333**). If the alarm is activated because of an explosion, ask for an ambulance also. Assist in the all-out evacuation of the building.
7. Go to Assembly Point X and report to the Evacuation Co-ordinator.

**B. Security / Porter Function – Power Failure**

1. Go to main panel behind the porter’s desk basement floor to ascertain whether there is a power failure because of fire.
2. Check with Main Security whether the power failure is local or campus wide.
3. If it is a local power failure, contact Buildings & Estates.
4. Buildings & Estates ascertain whether the failure can be rectified.
5. If the power failure cannot be rectified within 2 hours, Buildings & Estates will instruct the Porter to activate the fire alarm and initiate the evacuation of the building.
6. Go to Assembly Point X and inform the Evacuation Co-ordinator that there has been a power failure.
7. Buildings Officer informs Security, Evacuation Stewards, Assembly Point Stewards and Heads of Departments as to the length of time required to rectify the situation.
8. Depending on situation Assembly Point Stewards are instructed by the Evacuation Co-ordinator to give instructions to staff and students, e.g. ‘Go to another building and return within the hour’ or ‘Go home, the power failure is campus wide’.

**C**. **Evacuation Instructions for Evacuation Stewards**

1. On hearing the alarm collect the **ORANGE** high vis vest
2. Encourage people to respond to the alarm (occasionally people do need this encouragement). Check your designated areas and remember to check the toilets / storerooms / and office areas on your floor. Direct occupants to the nearest exits and tell them where to assemble (i.e., Assembly Point X or X).
3. Instruct staff and students not to use the lift.
4. Conduct a quick search as you go to ensure that no one is left behind.
5. Instruct un-cooperative persons to evacuate but under no circumstances delay your own evacuation. This check should not involve opening doors if the fire is believed to be behind them.
6. Report to the Evacuation Co-ordinator at Assembly Point X the clearance of your area, or the number and location of persons still in the building.
7. After evacuation prevent people from re-entering the building until the “All Clear” is given by the Evacuation Co-ordinator.

### D. Evacuation Instructions for Assembly Point Stewards

1. Collect the **ORANGE** high vis Assembly Point vest and megaphone.
2. Encourage persons to exit as you exit via the nearest emergency exit.
3. Outside the building direct persons to move to the nearest assembly point and remain clear of the building exits.
4. Move staff and students further away from the building to car park X or the XXXXXXXXX car park if requested to do so by the Evacuation Co-ordinator or a member of the fire service.
5. Await instruction from the Evacuation Coordinator. Only the Evacuation Coordinator can give the All-Clear signal.
6. When the All-Clear signal is received instruct staff and students to re-enter the building by the same door they exited if possible.

**E.** **Evacuation Instructions for Evacuation Co-ordinator**

1. Get the **YELLOW** high vis vest marked “Evacuation Co-ordinator” and pick up the clipboard containing a copy of the Emergency Evacuation Procedures and checklist.
2. Without delay go to Assembly Point X and then act as a liaison with the Emergency Services and do the following:
   1. Receive status reports from the Evacuation Stewards and co-ordinate with staff from the Buildings & Estates and the Safety Officer as appropriate.
   2. In conjunction with staff from Buildings & Estates, provide information about the building layout and systems to emergency personnel.
   3. Ensure that all Evacuation Stewards report to the primary Assembly Point for the building.
3. Buildings & Estates will inform the Evacuation Co-ordinator as to the nature of the emergency based on information from the fire panel and visual (if appropriate) investigation.
4. If it is a false alarm instruct the Assembly Point Stewards to give the “All Clear” and allow re-entry to the building.
5. If there is a fire await instructions from the fire brigade.
6. If there is a bomb threat (or other risk of explosion) and the bomb is thought to be in the XXXXXX instruct Assembly Point Stewards to move staff / students to a safe area.
7. Await instructions from the Fire Brigade / Gardai.

## F. Action in the event of a Chemical Spill or Release

Small spills

Spills that do not endanger staff or students in the immediate area may be cleaned up by laboratory staff using the spill kits provided.

1. Eliminate all sources of heat and ignition for all flammable materials and for those which form more toxic substances on exposure to heat.
2. Wear suitable personal protective equipment – lab coat, nitrile gloves, eye protection.
3. Ensure that all other personnel either leave the affected area or, if they remain to help, are also adequately and suitably protected.
4. If a liquid spill is small, absorb on paper towels and evaporate in a fume cupboard.
5. If large, absorb on sand, vermiculite or chem-sorb (industrial absorbent for liquid spills, available in all the laboratories), put into a covered a container, label and remove for disposal.
6. Solid materials should be swept up dry or mixed with dry sand before being swept up and placed in buckets for removal and subsequent disposal.
7. Following removal of the material from the site of the spillage, the area should be ventilated to remove any residual vapour and/or washed with water and soap or detergent to remove any traces of material.
8. Any contaminated personal or protective clothing should be thoroughly cleaned to remove all traces of contaminant. In some cases, it may be necessary to discard contaminated clothing.
9. Report the incident to the appropriate researcher/staff member so that it can be thoroughly investigated to evaluate the cause of the spillage with a view to preventing further similar incidents and to ensure that the instructions for handling such incidents are satisfactory.

#### **Spillage onto the person**

#### In the case of spillage onto the person, affected areas of the skin should be immediately treated with liberal quantities of water and any contaminated clothing removed. It is good practice to follow the initial water sluice by washing with soap and water.

#### The eyes should be well washed, either with water or some suitable eye lotion, by the victim’s colleagues: firm instructions to open the eyes for treatment and gentle restraint are normally needed. Entry of dangerous materials into the eyes should always be treated as a matter of concern and hospital examination should always follow the emergency first-aid procedure.

#### Any person requiring emergency first-aid treatment should be reviewed by a First Aid Responder where feasible. Persons may require further or immediate medical aid. It is important that medical staff are informed of the nature of the accident, the time at which it occurred, and the chemicals involved.

Large spills/unknowns

1. If the spill is large, if the chemical is not easily identified, or if the chemical is extremely hazardous, then the technician, postgraduate or lecturer should:
   1. Evacuate all personnel from the area.
   2. Phone the emergency services on 999/112 and request the fire brigade and ambulance if required. When making an emergency call:
      * Give your name.
      * Give your location (room and building).
      * Give the phone number you are using.
      * Describe the emergency/injuries.
   3. Phone 061 213333 to report the incident and request support.
   4. If possible, remain in vicinity, away from danger, to assist the emergency services.
   5. Await instruction from the emergency services before re-entry.
   6. Report the incident to the University Safety Officer.

## G. Action in the event of a Bomb Threat – instruction to person receiving call.

1. University personnel receiving telephoned threats should attempt to get the exact location where the bomb has been planted or is going to be planted.
2. Attempt to get as much information as possible about the caller, for example, gender, accent, etc.
3. Listen for any background noise that may indicate the location of the caller.
4. Report it immediately to the Gardai on 999/112.
5. Act on the advice of the Gardai with respect to evacuation.
6. If the Gardai recommend evacuation activate the fire alarm system by operating the nearest break glass unit.
7. Go to Assembly Point X and inform the Evacuation Co-ordinator as to the nature of the emergency.
8. Complete the checklist as soon as possible after receiving the threatening call.
9. Bomb threats received through the post or by other means are also to be reported immediately to the Gardai.

# Appendix 1

**Responsible Individuals**

Individuals

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Name** |
| Evacuation Coordinators |  |
| Evacuation Stewards Level |  |
| Evacuation Stewards Level |  |
| Evacuation Stewards Level |  |
| Evacuation Stewards Level |  |
| Evacuation Stewards Level |  |
| Evacuation Stewards Level |  |
| Assembly Point Stewards |  |

**FIRST AID CONTACTS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Name** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

# Appendix 2

**Emergency Evacuation for Persons with Disabilities**

Appendix for Persons with Disabilities

**General**

Staff and students with disabilities must develop their own evacuation plans and identify their primary and secondary evacuation routes from each building they use.

Disabled visitors unfamiliar with the building must be assisted in evacuation.

Personal Emergency Egress Plans for mobility-impaired students should be appended here.

# Appendix 3

**Hazardous Locations and Key Laboratory Personnel**

Hazardous

The following areas have been identified as unusually hazardous locations. The first responsibility in case of an emergency is getting yourself to safety. If time permits, it is recommended that all hazardous processes, gas and power in these areas be shut down by the operator before evacuating the building.

List unusually hazardous locations, who the Supervisor and lab contacts are for each location and how to contact them.

*List Effective this Date:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Room** | **Hazard(s)** |
| Plant Room |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

# Appendix 4

Emergency Contact Numbers

**Gardai / Fire Brigade / Ambulance 112/999**

**Campus Emergencies ext 3333 or (061 213333)**

**Student Medical Centre ext. 2534 or (061 202534) (9am-5pm)**

**Safety Officer ext 2239 or 061 202239**

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##### **Buildings and Estates ext 2001/2006 or 061 202001 or 202006**

**Security ext 4600 or 061 234600**

**The first location for the Critical Incident Management Centre is:**

The Glucksman Library GL0-068

**The alternative location is**  Health Sciences Building HSG-008a

# Appendix 5

# EVACUATION CHECKLIST FOR EVACUATION COORDINATOR

* On hearing the alarm collect YELLOWhigh visibility waistcoat, the clipboard containing the Emergency Evacuation Management Procedures and checklist. Proceed to the designated Assembly Point (AP X).

* **Evacuation Stewards** (Names)

Level 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Level 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Level 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Level 0/G \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Assembly Point Steward\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **Areas Checked:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Yes** | **Comments** |
| Level 3 |  |  |
| Level 2 |  |  |
| Level 1 |  |  |
| Level 0/G |  |  |

Assembly Point Steward is in possession of

* + - * Megaphone
* **Alarm Sounded at (time): All Clear Given at:**
* **Date:**
* **Comments to be recorded on the back of this document:**