

SPRING 1 2026

IMPORTANCE OF SMOKE ALARMS!

Smoke alarms save lives. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire related deaths and injuries. Fire spreads fast—working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SMOKE ALARM USE IN THE UNITED STATES

When working smoke alarms are present in your home, the risk of dying in a home fire is cut by 60 percent, according to the latest NFPA research. But how often are smoke alarms used in the United States, and are they used properly?

In September 2024, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published the results of a comprehensive survey that assesses the prevalence, functionality, and public perception of smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in U.S. households.

STATISTICS

- Roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- More than one-third (38 percent) of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present.
- The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area.
- Install alarms on every level of the home, including the basement.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms so that when one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working properly.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Working smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.



LSUA SAFETY WEBSITE

<https://www.lsua.edu/fas/safety>

This website contains various information on campus safety including our Safety Manual and General Safety Rules.

ANNUAL NATURAL GAS NOTICE

If you smell gas, call Facility Services at 318-473-6475 or University Police at 318-473-6427. LSUA owns and operates a natural gas distribution system. The purpose of the gas system is to provide a reliable and safe economical source of energy for heating buildings adjacent to the underground gas pipelines. The pipeline system has the capacity to reliably deliver natural gas to the customer.

The hazards of natural gas are that it is odorless, tasteless, and lighter than air, and can ignite and/or explode with a tremendous force when mixed with the right amount of air. Prevention measures taken include adding odorant to the gas to give it that distinctive smell, similar to rotten eggs, to warn us of its presence, testing the odorant level each calendar quarter, and performing annual gas leaking surveys.

Anyone who may smell this odor or notice any unusual conditions on or near gas mains, vents, service lines, meter sets, or especially inside a building should immediately call the Facility Services Department at **318-473-6475** or University Police at **318-473-6427**.

State and Federal laws require excavators to notify the state LA One-Call Center 48 hours before digging. The LA One-Call number is 811 or 1-800-272-3020. They will notify LSUA Facility Services. Remember, you must call 48 hours before digging.

If you smell a ***STRONG*** gas odor inside a building, ask everyone in the building to leave. Do not operate any switches or use the phone. Move a

safe distance away upwind of the gas smell and then, when you are safe, call the Facility Services Department. With any gas leak protect life first then notify the Facility Services Department.

 <p>Smell</p>  <p>The most obvious sign of a natural gas leak is the smell. We add a harmless substance to natural gas so that it stinks like rotten eggs, making it easier to detect a leak.</p>	 <p>Sight</p>  <p>Look for dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area. Soil may be abnormally dry or hardened.</p> <p>In wet or flooded areas, there may be continuous bubbling.</p>
 <p>Sound</p>  <p>Gas leaks often emit a blowing or hissing sound.</p>	 <p>Other signs</p>  <p>If a leak has been ignited, there will be flames.</p> <p>In certain cases, gas leaks will blow dust from a hole in the ground.</p>

This information is provided as a public awareness notice.

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

The Louisiana Office of Risk Management recently directed all state organizations maintaining hazardous materials to develop and implement a Hazard Communication and Chemical Safety Program. At LSUA, this program is coordinated by the Risk Manager. The program requires departments on campus who use or store hazardous materials to maintain an inventory, maintain SDS (Safety Data Sheets), conduct training for employees who handle hazardous materials, label and properly store HAZMAT inventories, and develop procedures for spills or other HAZMAT emergencies.

ORM defines a substance as “hazardous” if it is classified as either a “physical” hazard (flammables, explosives etc.) or a “health” hazard (carcinogens or mutagens). Physical hazards such as oxygen tanks, fuel, and paint thinner are easier to identify than health hazards which include substances such as lab chemicals and cleaning supplies. At LSUA, hazardous materials are primarily located within the Department of Facility Services and Science laboratories.

In addition to providing the chemical composition of a substance, product labels provide detailed information concerning proper use, storage, and hazards of a hazardous material. Always read the label prior to use and never go “off label” by mixing or using something in a manner inconsistent with label instructions. The label will also dictate what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn when using the substance.

If you are working in an area where hazardous chemicals are present, you should check to ensure that current SDS are available.

SDS for Hazardous Materials (if applicable):

- All containers should be labeled with the name of the contents
- Review the safety data sheets for the materials used by the employees
- To ensure understanding, employees should be knowledgeable in the signs and symptoms of exposure to the hazardous material
- The employee should know how to access all safety data sheets
- The employee should be aware of the new labeling system for chemicals

For additional information on the new SDS, please visit:

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3514.html>



LSUA GENERAL SAFETY RULES

Each year, LSUA is required to conduct training on the General Safety Rules which are listed below. They are also located in the Safety Manual on the LSUA website. Please read our rules and direct any questions to me at cgauthier@lsua.edu.

1. No smoking on campus.
2. Horseplay and fighting will not be tolerated in the work place.
3. Before beginning work, notify your supervisor of any permanent or temporary impairment that may reduce your ability to perform in a safe manner.
4. Operate equipment only if you are trained and authorized.
5. Immediately report any recognized potentially unsafe condition or act to your supervisor.
6. Immediately report accidents, near misses, and property damage to a supervisor regardless of the severity.
7. Report any smoke, fire, or unusual odors to your supervisor immediately.
8. Use proper lifting techniques. For objects exceeding 50 pounds in weight, the immediate supervisor shall determine specific methods for safe lifting.
9. If your work creates a potential slip or trip hazard, correct the hazard immediately. Special attention should be paid to electrical cords that stretch across walkways.
10. Fasten restraint belts before starting any motor vehicle.
11. Obey all driver safety instructions.
12. Comply with all traffic signs, signals, markers, and persons designated to direct traffic.
13. Adhere to departmental rules regarding first aid, evacuation routes, and fire department notification.
14. Adhere to departmental rules and procedures specific to departmental operations.

15. Assist and cooperate with all safety investigations and inspections and assist in implementing safety procedures as requested.

16. Adhere to any state, local, or campus policies on infection control procedures.



RETURN TO WORK POLICY - PS 277

Purpose: Louisiana State University at Alexandria (LSUA) provides workers' compensation benefits to its faculty and staff in accordance with state law. This coverage includes the University's modified duty program designed to encourage employees who have been released to perform work with limitations to return to work. Please familiarize yourself with this policy which was updated recently.

All LSUA policy statements can be found online at <https://www.lsua.edu/chancellor/policies>