

# Get Out and Stay Alive

## A Program for College Campus and Student Fire Safety



# FEMA



Brad Olson, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire; Anne Smith, Joanna Howell, Ben Woodruff, Mark Strickland and Robert Weaver, University of North Carolina; and Joel Pierce, Greenville College, Illinois. Their voices are stilled, but their spirits live on. Don't allow them to have died in vain. Learn from these tragedies. You may save your own life or the lives of others.



Joel Pierce

*"We're all like a big family here, and it feels like we lost part of our family." The words of Sarah, a student at Greenville College, Illinois talking about Joel Pierce, a music major who died in a dorm fire eleven days before he was to marry his college sweetheart.*



Joanna Howell

*"What's so ironic is Joanna was so full of life and so energetic all the time. You never think something like this could happen."*

*Julie, sorority sister of Joanna Howell*



Brad Olson

*"You can't replace Brad. It's hard not to see him, because I miss him." The words of Andy, friend of Eau Claire fire victim, Brad Olson*

*"I miss the family we had. It just changes your entire life. I miss my life."*

*Mother of Ben Woodruff  
Chapel Hill fire victim*

*"We tried to save them, but there was just no safe way to get them. No matter how good firefighters are, we can't always save them... prevention is the key... they need to stay alert about fire hazards."*

*Chief Dan Jones  
Chapel Hill Fire Department*



For more information or copies of this publication, please contact:

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*Get Out and Stay Alive* is a program designed to help save your life in case you find yourself in a fire situation. This program focuses on three main topics: Getting Out, Prevention, and Protection.

## GETTING OUT

*If you get caught in a fire situation, survival is your top priority. You should:*

### FEEL THE DOOR HANDLE

- If the door handle is hot, don't open it
- Go to a window and call for help
- If the handle is not hot, open cautiously
- Check for smoke or fire before going out

### GET OUT OF THE BUILDING BEFORE PHONING FOR HELP

- Don't take time to phone before leaving
- Get out and find a phone

### PULL THE FIRE ALARM ON YOUR WAY OUT

### DON'T LOOK FOR OTHER PEOPLE OR GATHER UP YOUR STUFF

- Knock on doors as you leave
- Yell "FIRE!" as you leave
- Don't hesitate or stray from your path as you leave

### CRAWL LOW TO THE FLOOR

- Thick smoke can make it impossible to see
- Toxic chemicals from smoke can be deadly in minutes

### CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU

- You may help keep the fire from spreading
- You may protect your possessions from fire and smoke damage

## IF YOU CAN'T GET OUT, GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION

- Yell and scream
- Hang a sheet from the window
- Stay low, there is less smoke and poisonous gasses close to the floor

## PREVENTION

*Fires can be prevented from starting if you take some simple precautions:*

### TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREVENTION

- Assign a non-impaired "event monitor"
- Clean up immediately after parties and take all trash outside
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Keep space heaters and halogen lamps away from flammables
- Put out candles and incense when unattended
- Extinguish all smoking materials thoroughly
- Don't smoke while tired or impaired

## PROTECTION

*You can also protect yourself from becoming trapped in a fire situation by following some important suggestions:*

### CHECK SMOKE ALARMS

- Be sure they are in proper working condition
- Install new batteries at the beginning of each semester

### PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES

- Know where all exits are located in the building
- Practice your escape plan

## TAKE FIRE ALARMS SERIOUSLY

- Do not ignore fire alarms
- Do not wait to see fire or smoke
- Do not worry about grabbing your stuff

**Tampering with smoke alarms, pulling false alarms or misusing fire protection equipment may be a criminal offense. These are dangerous pranks and should be reported immediately.**

## MAKE A PLAN

*You can make a plan for your own fire safety and protection as soon as you get home. Use the following check list:*

- Check to make sure your smoke alarms are working - Change the batteries
- Find all possible exits from your room or residence
- Make a fire escape route plan that include two escape routes
- Practice your fire escape route plan
- Perform a "home inspection" for fire and safety hazards
- Tell your roommates about your plan
- Call your local fire department for more information about student housing fire safety