

Emergency Procedures For Mandatory Evacuations

University of Pittsburgh Animal Care and Use Program

Maintaining human safety is paramount.

The following procedures are applicable to all animal housing facilities and animal research laboratories during a mandatory building evacuation. Animal research personnel leaving an animal unattended and then immediately returning to the animal upon reentry to a building are not in violation of regulations.

When the emergency alarm is heard but no smoke or fire is seen, **personnel should not continue with any ongoing or planned procedure.** Steps can be taken to secure the animal in a cage, box or locked area, and/or steps can be initiated to preserve the animal's life (e.g. closing surgical sites, or reviving the animal), **IF THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN A MATTER OF MINUTES.** Personnel not needed for these steps should begin their evacuation procedures. Personnel attending to vital animal needs must do so expeditiously, and must secure any infectious agents being used, and either secure the animal by returning them to their home caging or into temporary housing for safe holding, or euthanize the animal if smoke or fire in the area is confirmed or if instructed to evacuate by emergency response personnel.

All building occupants shall exit quickly in a safe and orderly manner using appropriate evacuation routes. *Do not use elevators.* Occupants shall exit the building using the nearest marked exit and proceed to the pre-determined assembly area identified for the building. If possible and safe, all laboratory gases should be turned off and doors and windows closed upon exiting. If smoke is present, stay close to the floor as you exit. Obey the directions of emergency response personnel.

Once outside, evacuees should proceed to the assembly area for the building so as not to impede the movements of emergency response personnel. Do not return to the evacuated building unless directed by Campus Police or other emergency response personnel.

Building specific assembly areas have been identified to provide a location for evacuees to gather upon exiting their building. Evacuees should follow the direction of emergency response personnel to the appropriate assembly area.

Once authorized to return to a building, animal research personnel are to return to their animals and are to attend to their clinical care. During regular working hours (M-F 8:30 am-5:00 pm), please contact the DLAR administrative office at (412) 648-8950. If veterinarian medical emergency arises after hours, call the:

Veterinary Emergency Answering Service at (412) 624-VETS (8387) for assistance.