



FIRE CLEARANCE FIRENET

INTRODUCTION

This section shall apply to the UC Davis Campus, the UC Davis Medical Center, and all properties administered by UC Davis. A Fire Clearance is the written approval required from the UC Davis Fire Department stating that the building or area meets the necessary fire and life safety provisions of the code and the University. A Fire Clearance is required prior to occupancy of, or the moving of personal belongings into, a building or space by university staff, faculty, students or the general public. Please note that it is not necessary to obtain a Fire Clearance in order to install equipment or furniture that is part of the project (new modular furniture, laboratory fumehoods, etc.). However, the furniture or equipment installed as part of the project must be inspected and accepted by the University prior to issuance of a Fire Clearance. In addition, this FireNet does not apply to University crafts persons who are hired by the project to conduct work necessary for completion of the building.

BASIS OF REQUIREMENT

A Fire Clearance is only one component necessary for the Campus Building Official to grant occupancy or partial occupancy of a building or space. As detailed below in item #3, the UC Davis Fire Department can also issue a temporary *One-Time Fire Clearance* under certain circumstances should special provisions exist (examples include: a space in the building will be used for a few hours to host a visit from the Governor, or the building is close to completion with most fire and life safety items completed and the department wants to continue with the building dedication ceremony).

USE

The Fire Department issues fire clearances under the following circumstances:

1. *The University wants to occupy the entire building for new construction projects or entire space for a remodel project.* In this case, if all fire and life safety requirements are completed and inspected by representatives of the UC Davis Fire Department, a Final Fire Clearance will be issued. The UC Davis Fire Department issues a Fire and Life Safety Construction Checklist prior to the start of each construction project. Each item on this checklist applicable to the project

must be inspected and signed off by a representative of the UC Davis Fire Department. A Fire Clearance is required prior to occupancy of, or the moving of personal belongings into, a building or space by university staff, faculty, students or the general public.

2. *The University wants to take occupancy of a given room or space within the building for new construction or space for a remodel project.* In this case, if all fire and life safety requirements are completed for the space in question, and inspected by representatives from the UC Davis Fire Department, a Fire Clearance will be issued. As stated in item #1 above, the UC Davis Fire Department issues a Fire and Life Safety Construction Checklist prior to the start of each construction project. Each item on this checklist applicable to the space or area under consideration must be inspected and signed off by a representative of the UC Davis Fire Department. A Fire Clearance is required prior to occupancy of, or the moving of personal belongings into, a building or space by university staff, faculty, students or the general public.
3. *The University wants to utilize a building or space prior to completion of some fire and life safety requirements for a special event or dedication ceremony.* Please note that a One-Time Temporary Fire Clearance is generally granted only *one time* during a given construction project and is subject to the discretion of the UC Davis Fire Department. While a Fire Watch(es) is(are) generally utilized in this case, a Fire Watch is not considered an alternative for all fire and life safety requirements still needing inspection and sign-off by the UC Davis Fire Department.

When a request to the UC Davis Fire Department for issuance of a Fire Clearance is received, a Fire Department representative will address the following items to determine the status of the project:

- Fire and Life Safety Construction Inspection Checklist. It is the responsibility of the project manager and inspector to maintain the Fire and Life Safety Construction Inspection Checklist. The UC Davis Fire Department representative will review the checklist to determine the status of all items applicable to the project. Any incomplete or previously identified items must be inspected and signed off by a UC Davis Fire Department representative prior to the issuance of a Fire Clearance. It is of extreme importance that the project representatives realize the responsibility they have in maintaining up-to-date status of the checklist.
- Fire Alarm System. Fire alarm devices serving the areas to be considered shall be operational at all times. Upon activation, the system shall sound an audible and visual alarm in the areas under consideration and report to the UC Davis Dispatch Center.

- Fire Sprinkler System. The fire sprinkler system, including the fire pump, if so equipped, shall be connected to the permanent water supply and shall remain operational at all times.
- Egress Systems. All exit lights, egress signage, and emergency lighting that serve the areas to be considered shall be operational. All egress paths in the areas being considered shall remain clear and unobstructed at all times.
- General Fire Safety. Construction equipment and appurtenances shall not compromise egress systems. All packing materials shall be removed from the occupied area at the end of the business day. Arrangements shall be made to remove excessive materials that may build up on the exterior of the building.
- Evacuation Plan. Signs showing evacuation routes and dispersal areas, as outlined in Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations, shall be posted as required in all areas under consideration. Employees shall receive training on evacuation procedures in case of emergency.
- Fire Department Access. All access roads shall be maintained in accordance with the Fire Department Access Roads FireNet. Link: [Access Roads ~ January 2000, revised November 2005](#).