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## Imminent Hazards Policy

### **Purpose**

To provide direction on identifying imminent hazards, the need to evacuate the premises, and making notification to the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety.

### **To Whom Does the Policy Apply**

Ramapo College community

### **Related Documents**

- New Jersey Fire Code
- <https://www.ramapo.edu/ehs/fire-safety/>

### **Contacts**

College Fire Marshal (201).684.6252

### **Enforcement of Policy**

The policy will be enforced by the College Fire Marshal and the Office of Public Safety. The Division of Fire Safety will enforce applicable provisions of the New Jersey State Fire Code.

### **Background**

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) over all New Jersey State Colleges and Universities.

### **Procedure**

1. The State Fire Marshal or their designee is the only authority, under the NJ Uniform Fire Code, that can prevent occupants from returning to a building in connection with violations of the code.
2. The Code specifically states: If the State Fire Marshal or his designate discovers a violation that constitutes an Imminent Hazard, a written violation shall be issued to the violator. The written order shall direct that the premises be vacated, closed, or removed forthwith or that the violation be corrected within a period not to exceed 24 hours.
3. The following violations constitute imminent hazards:
  - a. Unsafe structural conditions
  - b. Locking or blocking means of egress
  - c. Presence of explosives, explosive fumes or vapor in violation of the Fire Code.
  - d. Presence of toxic fumes, gases or materials, or flammable or combustible liquids in violation of the Fire Code.
  - e. Inadequacy of any required fire protection system.
4. The State Fire Marshal or their designee shall conduct a re-inspection of the premises within 48 hours upon written notification from the owner that the violation/Imminent Hazard has been abated.

5. The State Fire Marshal or their designee is empowered to order the immediate evacuation of a premises when, there is actual and/or potential danger to the occupants, or those in proximity to an Imminent Hazard. When an Imminent Hazard is declared, the following applies:
  - a. All occupants shall immediately leave the premises.
  - b. All persons who refuse to leave or interfere with the evacuation, except those persons who are directed to correct the violation/Imminent Hazard, may be subject to arrest if found in violation of the Fire Code.
  - c. The State Fire Marshal or their designee shall post a notice of Imminent Hazard at each entrance to the building. Subsequently, only those authorized to make repairs to abate the Imminent Hazard shall be allowed to enter the premises until such time that the Imminent Hazard has been abated by the State Fire Marshal or their designee.

#### **Notification of Fires and Imminent Hazards**

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety shall immediately be notified of all confirmed fires on campus. These shall include, but not be limited to, all outdoor and indoor fires, trash can fires and minor explosions, confirmed CO (Carbon Monoxide) incidents, smoke inhalation, heavy smoke conditions, and any burn victims and deaths caused by smoke, fire or explosion. The number to call is 1-877-NJ-FIRES. The Fire Marshal shall be responsible for making the proper notification. In the absence of the Fire Marshal, Public Safety shall make the required notification to the State.