

Alpena Community College

Results of the Gas Leak Evacuation Drill

Date of Exercise: April 20, 2015

Time of Exercise: 2:00 pm to 2:05 pm

Location of Exercise: Van Lare Hall

A. Purpose

The purpose of the exercise was to test the ability of faculty, staff, students, and visitors to evacuate Van Lare Hall in a timely and safe manner.

The exercise was announced in advance to all ACC employees.

B. Results/Outcome

All ACC employees were notified via email in advance that a gas leak evacuation drill was going to be performed and that they needed to follow their exit plans located inside their office/classroom to evacuate safely. At precisely 2:00 pm, a fire pull station was activated in Van Lare Hall and alerted the alarm company. The alarm company then notified the Alpena Central Dispatch that an alarm was pulled. Firefighters were on the scene within 1 minute 30 seconds. It took approximately 2 minutes 15 seconds for all occupants of VLH to evacuate the building. Total time from the sounding of the alarm to notification of "all clear" from the fire personnel was 4 minutes 47 seconds.

Issues

1. There was no external notification that an emergency situation was in progress. Case in point: the police officer that was blocking traffic was parked in a location that allowed traffic coming from US-23 to still be able to drive into the College parking lot and semicircle driveway. Because of this, a student/visitor drove his car into the driveway, parked his car and then walked along the sidewalk toward the building before he realized what was going on.
2. The sound of the fire alarm was not audible when standing outside the building.
3. A few employees were not aware of what door to use for exit.
4. Some doors were left open upon evacuation.

C. Follow-Up

A debriefing was held immediately after the drill which involved members of the Safety Committee and two nursing students. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the effectiveness of the drill and identify issues that need to be addressed. Ways to make the fire alarm audible outside will be researched and discussed. Communication to employees of which doors to use for exit when evacuating will be made to ensure that all employees have a clear understanding.

An email from Robert Adrian, Alpena Deputy Chief and Fire Marshall, was received with a couple of recommendations. The first recommendation is to have a staff person check the classrooms for any students staying in the building. This is something that can be done quickly as they make their way to the exit if smoke or fire conditions allow the time to do such. The second recommendation is that the doors need to be closed to prevent fire and smoke spread. Further training for employees will be conducted to ensure all employees are informed of what to do in the case of an alarm activation.