Many of your classes, labs, and small group sessions will be held in the Trent Semans Center (TSCHE). The fire alarm system may differ from those of the other medical center and/or University buildings. When there is an alarm, there will be announcement that “This is a fire alarm. Please exit the building.” At this time, please go to nearest stairwell (one at each end of the building, and the central stairways) and exit the building at either the South or West entrances.

If exiting at the West entrance (Searle Center Drive), please proceed across the street and gather under the awnings of the Bryan Research building. If exiting from the South entrance, please gather close to the Duke Medicine Pavilion directly across the plaza. Please remain there until the “ALL Clear” signal is given by either Associate Dean Colleen Grochowski or Associate Dean Stacey McCorison (or other emergency personnel).

Some of your classes may be held in other medical center buildings, so you will hear all fire alarms. Any time a smoke detector, heat sensor or pull alarm goes off, and a message is heard hospital-wide giving the location of the disturbance. It is your responsibility to LISTEN to the message and RESPOND. The message you may hear is:

“This is a drill. 4-5-13-3”

This message will A L W A Y S say “This is a drill” even if there is an actual fire

“4” is the code of Duke Clinic (as opposed to Erwin Road location, called North Division)
“5” this digit represents the FLOOR where the disturbance occurred.
“13” This is the ZONE in South where the alarm went off
“3” The last digit is a code for the type of detector or alarm activated and is utilized for use by the fire department.

The Duke Clinic Amphitheater is:

“5” is the CLINIC & RECEPTION BUILDING
“Ground” is the FLOOR
“8” is the zone
You should hear any message above repeated 3 times.
If the message is followed by the phrase: “A drill has been reported in your area.
If relocation is needed move all persons horizontally to an adjoining unit”

This means you are actually in the affected zone. This message should only be broadcast in the area where the disturbance occurred. If you hear this message, check your area immediately for flames and/or smoke. Call “911” and report that you have found evidence of a fire. Then vacate the floor and/or building.

You also will hear ALL EMERGENCY CODES messages. These are for first-responders only.

AT ALL TIMES, YOU MUST EXIT THE BUILDING WHEN AN ALARM IS SOUNDED. FAILURE TO LEAVE THE BUILDING MAY RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT FINE TO MEDICAL EDUCATION.