FIRE-RATED ENCLOSURES

Overview
This policy applies to external contractors, Facilities Management, Information Management Services (IMS), repair personnel/vendors, their supervisors (including outside contractors), and other individuals performing wall or floor penetration work in fire-rated enclosures.

Definitions
FIRE-RATED ENCLOSURE: Refers to a structure with a fire resistance rating approved by the authority having jurisdiction that is designed and maintained to prevent the passage of smoke and fire. Examples include stairs, mechanical rooms, elevator hoistways, utility shafts, corridor walls, and return air plenum.

PENETRATION: An opening in a fire-rated enclosure that includes penetration of pipes, conduits, ducts, cables, pneumatic tubes, and similar building services.

Policy
The fire-rated areas within UT Health San Antonio provide services critical to the strategic mission of UT Health San Antonio. Any action that may significantly affect the integrity of a fire-rated enclosure shall be reviewed by Facilities Management personnel prior to beginning any work. All existing penetrations into fire-rated enclosures shall be resealed or corrected using accepted procedures and methods in accordance with the sketches and specifications available from the Design and Engineering division of Facilities Management. New penetrations into fire-rated enclosures must be reviewed by Facilities Management prior to and following the penetration work. The supervisor in the requesting department shall verify compliance with this policy prior to beginning a project within a fire-rated enclosure. The supervisor shall consult with the Design and Engineering division or the Director/Assistant Director of Construction and Project Management (or his/her designated representative) in Facilities Management to ensure work is completed as required by this policy.