1. **Should the professor lead the class out the building or follow the class?**
   We asked this question of members of the River Falls Fire Department. Their answer was that the professor should appoint a student to lead the way out of the building and that the professor should be the last one to leave the classroom. That way, the professor can assure everyone has left the room. Then he or she can turn off the lights and shut the door.

2. **Why do we need to close the doors? Should the doors be locked?**
   We need to close the doors to reduce the spread of fire. Classroom doors will provide a certain level of fire hour protection. You do not need to lock the doors. This will provide easy access to the room by fire fighters. If the door is locked and the fire fighters need to go into a room, they can always go to the lock box located in the building and get a master key. They are familiar with the lock box locations on campus.

   This brings up another issue about propping fire doors open. Fire rated doors (look for the plate on the hinged edge of the door to find the fire rating) should never be propped open.

3. **Why do we have to evacuate to the Post Evacuation Assembly Area? Why can’t we just leave or go to a location where we choose to go?**
   Evacuation to a designated Post Evacuation Assembly Area is important to assure everyone is accounted for. Designating these areas is important for two reasons:
   a. It is very helpful in establishing if everyone was able to evacuate the building. In a real event, fire fighters will want to know if they are in a situation where rescue is needed. If everyone is accounted for, they will know that they can start fighting the fire instead of sweeping the building looking for potential victims.
   b. The assembly areas are located away from the building. This is important so fire fighters have clear access to the building for their trucks and equipment. They can begin to start responding to the situation immediately and don’t have to worry about clearing the crowd around entrances before they begin. Fire fighters need clear access to the building perimeter.

4. **Why was there such a bottleneck in some stairwells?**
   Drill observers reported back that people used main stairwells to evacuate and didn’t make use of many other exit routes that were closer. In fact, in a couple of areas in the Davee Library, Ag. Science and South Hall, people walked right past other exit doors to get to a main stairwell.

   It’s very important to determine the shortest route out of the building from the room you are in. Make note in advance of the other options you have. When the fire alarm is going off, it is OK to use emergency doors. They will provide you with the quickest route out.

5. **How will I know when it is safe to come back into the building?**
   Don’t go back into the building just because you no longer hear the alarm. In a drill, someone will motion to you when it’s safe to come back into the building. In a real event, that may or may not happen depending on the situation. The best rule of thumb is to look at the strobe lights as best you can from outside the building. If they are still flashing, that means that the alarm has not been reset. Emergency personnel will not issue an all clear until the alarms are reset.