Door Hold Open Devices

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At no time should a fire door be blocked or held open with a wood wedge or placing an item so the door will not close. In the event of a fire, a fire door must close to save lives and to reduce damage to property.

An approved door hold open method is an electromagnetic door holding device installed as part of the building fire alarm system. When installed, the door is held open by an electromagnet and if the fire alarm system is activated, the magnet releases and the door will close and latch in accordance with the fire code. Electromagnetic door open devices may only be installed if the building fire alarm system has the capacity to power such a device and the proper authority having jurisdiction has approved the installation. To arrange for the installation of an electromagnetic door hold open device, call the Facilities Service Center at 734-647-2059 or visit requests.fo.umich.edu.

Doors with closers that are not fire doors and are not required to close and latch by fire code can be held open in a couple ways. A delayed action door closer will hold the door open for up to 20 seconds before beginning to close. A second method is to install a hold open arm to hold the door open until someone pulls it closed. To initiate the process of investigating whether this is a feasible option for your situation, call the Facilities Service Center at 734-647-2059 or visit requests.fo.umich.edu.

Due to the possibility of serious injury, tampering with a door closer by adjusting controls or by removing parts (such as closer arms, screws, etc.) is strictly forbidden. In general, most door closers on campus are adjusted so the door closes within 10 to 15 seconds of being fully opened. If a door is closing improperly, call the Facilities Service Center at 734-647-2059 or visit requests.fo.umich.edu.