



Campus Fire Safety

Going to college is an exciting time for students and their parents. Living in a new “home away from home” not only gives young adults more freedom to make their own choices, but it also provides them an increased level of personal responsibility while at school. When it comes to on- and off-campus housing, it’s important for students and parents to keep fire safety top of mind.

CAUSES OF CAMPUS FIRES

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, an estimated 3,800 university housing fires occur each year in the U.S. with 85 percent being cooking fires. The leading causes of campus related fires include:

- Cooking (hot plates, microwaves, portable grills)
- Arson
- Careless smoking
- Unattended candles
- Overloaded extension cords, power strips and outlets.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS & FIRE DON'T MIX

Alcohol or drugs increase your chances of falling asleep while smoking and reduces your ability to respond to a fire alarm and escape from a fire.

PREVENTING CAMPUS FIRES & FIRE FATALITIES

Cooking is the cause of 85 percent of university housing fires.

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Cook only where it is permitted
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

Smoking

- Smoke outside of the building and full extinguish the material before you discard it.
- Use deep, wide and sturdy ashtrays. Sit ashtrays on something sturdy and hard to ignite.
- It is risky to smoke when you have been drinking or are drowsy.

Candles are one of the leading causes of fires in both on and off-campus dwellings despite the fact that most colleges and university forbid candles in residence halls. Twenty percent of fires in dorms rooms are started by candles.

- Make sure candles are in sturdy holders and put out after each use.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Use flameless candles, which are both safe and attractive.

Provided for Fire and Prevention Education by:

Waterford Fire Department

Office of Fire Services
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Campus Fire Safety



Information for College Campus and Student Fire Safety.



www.waterfordct.org/fire-services

This brochure is designed to help save your life in case you find yourself in a fire situation. This program focuses on three main topics: **Getting Out, Prevention and Protection**

GETTING OUT

If you get caught in a fire situation, survival is your top priority. You should:

FEEL THE DOOR HANDLE

- If the door handle is hot, don't open it.
- Go to a window and call for help.
- If the handle is not hot, open cautiously.
- Check for smoke or fire before going out.

GET OUT OF THE BUILDING BEFORE PHONING FOR HELP

- Don't take time to phone before leaving. Get out and find a phone.

PULL THE FIRE ALARM ON YOUR WAY OUT

DON'T LOOK FOR OTHER PEOPLE OR GATHER UP YOUR STUFF

- Knock on doors as you leave
- Yell **"FIRE!"** as you leave.
- Don't hesitate or stray from your path as you leave.

CRAWL LOW TO THE FLOOR

- Thick smoke can make it impossible to see.
- Toxic chemicals from smoke can be deadly in minutes.

CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU

- You may help keep the fire from spreading.
- You may protect your possessions from fire and smoke damage.

IF YOU CAN'T GET OUT, GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION

- Yell and scream!
- Hang a sheet from the window
- Stay low, there is less smoke and poisonous gasses close to the floor.

PREVENTION

Fires can be prevented from starting if you take some simple precautions:

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREVENTION

- Assign a non-impaired "event monitor"
- Clean up immediately after parties and take all trash outside.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Keep space heaters and halogen lamps away from flammables.
- Extinguish all smoking materials thoroughly.
- Don't smoke while tired or impaired.
- Never charge your phone on your bed or any flammable surface.

PROTECTION

You can also protect yourself from becoming trapped in a fire situation by following some important suggestions:

CHECK SMOKE ALARMS

- Be sure they are in proper working condition.
- Install new batteries at the beginning of each semester.

PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES

- Know where all exits are located in the building.
- Practice your escape plan.

TAKE FIRE ALARMS SERIOUSLY

- Do not ignore fire alarms.
- Do not wait to see fire or smoke.
- Do not worry about grabbing your stuff.

Tampering with smoke alarms. Pulling false alarms or misusing fire protection equipment may be a criminal offense. These are dangerous pranks and should be reported immediately.

MAKE A PLAN

You can make a plan for your own fire safety and protection as soon as you get home. Use the following check list:

- Check to make sure your smoke alarms are working-change the batteries.
- Find all possible exits from your room or residence.
- Make a fire escape route plan that includes two (2) escape routes.
- Perform a "home inspection" for fire and safety hazards.
- Tell your roommates about your plan.
- Call your local fire department for more information about student housing fire safety.