



Campus Fire Safety

IF IN DOUBT GET OUT!

If you live in on-campus housing, you should always make sure you know what to do and how to safely escape your building in the event of a fire or natural disaster. The following steps should only be carried out if it is safe to do so and time permits:

- Upon discovery of the fire shout “**FIRE**” to alert others. Make sure to pull the fire alarm to alert others.
- **DO NOT** attempt to gather your belongings.
- If the door is hot, do not open it, go to a window and shout for help.
- If you become trapped in your room, hang something outside the window to warn firefighters that you are still in the building.
- Check for smoke or fire before going into the hallway - check the door for heat before opening, if the the handle is **not** hot, open the door cautiously.
- Close the door behind you, but take your key in case you are driven back by heat or smoke.
- Stay as low to the floor as possible. Thick smoke can make it impossible to see. Toxic chemicals in the smoke can be deadly in minutes.



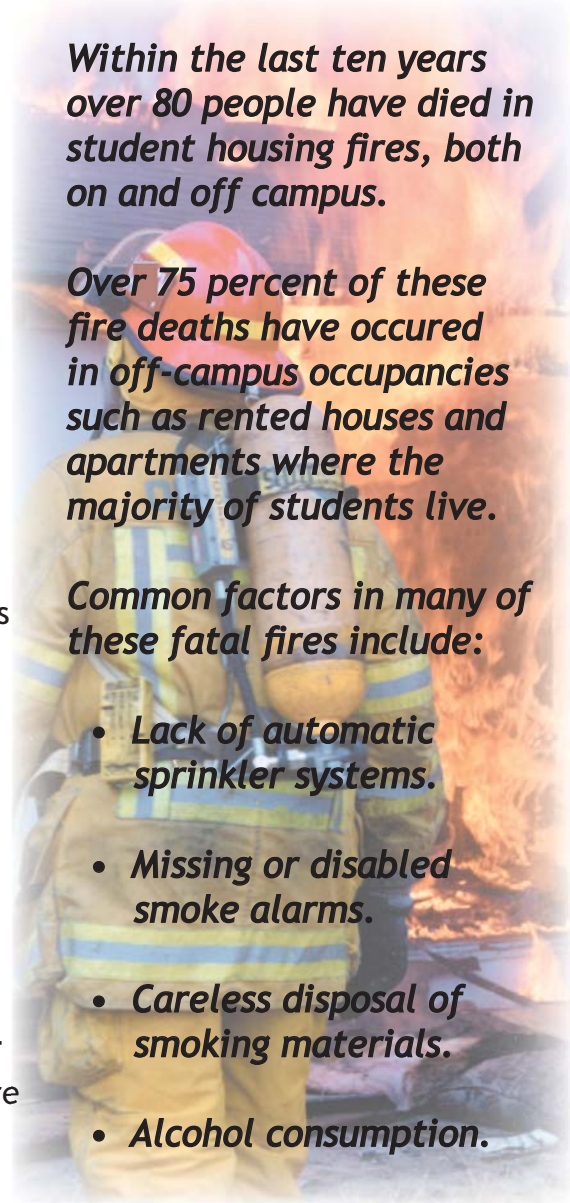
- Get out first and then find a phone and call 9-1-1. **DO NOT** take time to call anyone before leaving.
- Always take the stairs- elevators do not work in the event of a natural disaster, you could get stuck.
- Have a central meeting place for everyone to gather and be accounted for. **DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING.**

Within the last ten years over 80 people have died in student housing fires, both on and off campus.

Over 75 percent of these fire deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies such as rented houses and apartments where the majority of students live.

Common factors in many of these fatal fires include:

- *Lack of automatic sprinkler systems.*
- *Missing or disabled smoke alarms.*
- *Careless disposal of smoking materials.*
- *Alcohol consumption.*



Prevention

Fires can be prevented by taking these simple steps:

- Clean up immediately after parties and take all trash outside.
- When using a microwave oven never use aluminum foil or metal objects. Use only microwave-safe cookware (containers or dishes).



- Open microwaved food slowly, away from the face. Hot steam escaping from a container of microwaved food or the food itself can cause burns.
- Keep space heaters and halogen lamps away from flammables.
- When using toaster ovens or hot plates, make sure to stay and watch - your food could overheat and start a fire.

- Do not store anything inside a toaster oven.
- Make sure to clean the toaster oven out after every use. Drips or dried food could cause a fire.
- Put out candles and incense when unattended.
- Do not overload electrical outlets. Use a surge protector with a circuit breaker for more than two electrical items.
- Extinguish all smoking materials. Do not smoke while tired or impaired.



Protection

To prevent becoming trapped in a fire situation here are some important steps to follow:

- Check to make sure all smoke alarms are working and change the batteries twice a year.
- Find all possible exits from your room or residence.

**For more information
on campus fire safety contact your
campus safety officials or visit:**

www.ocfa.org
www.nist.gov
www.campusfiresafety.org
www.nfpa.org
www.usfa.dhs.gov

- Make a fire escape plan - have at least two routes.
- Practice your escape route plan.
- Check your room for possible fire and safety hazards.
- Tell roommates about your escape plan and have an outside meeting place.

Take Fire Alarms Seriously

Do not ignore fire alarms. If the alarm goes off make sure to promptly get outside - if it is safe to do so. Do not worry about personal belongings.