



NY Fire Consultants, Inc. Fire Safety Message

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Fire Safety on Campus

In the period between January 2000 and October 18, 2005, 81 people died in student housing fires, both on and off-campus, across the United States. Countless others have been injured and have lost their housing, personal belongings and school work in fires.

Questions to Ask

When visiting or selecting a school, make an informed decision and ask these questions when you are visiting campuses...

- ✓ ***How many fires have occurred on campus in the past year, two years, five years?***
How many students have been injured or have any been killed? How much dollar loss have these fires caused? This should be ALL fires, not just those reported as arson.
- ✓ ***Are residence halls equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system?***
If not, why not? Sprinklers provide that vital first line of defense when it comes to controlling a fire.
- ✓ ***Does every student's room have a smoke alarm?***
Does it send a signal to campus security or the fire department? Fire alarm systems will give everyone the warning that there is a fire and it is time to get out.
- ✓ ***How many false alarms have occurred in the residence halls?***
False alarms cause students to stop paying attention to the alarms, which can be a fatal decision. False alarms are avoidable.

- ✓ ***Is the fire department IMMEDIATELY notified whenever ANY fire alarm system is activated?***

Some schools investigate the alarm first and then notify the fire department. This delay can put more people at risk. The fire department should automatically be notified of ALL alarms.

- ✓ ***Are smoking, candles and Halogen lamps prohibited in the residence halls?***

Smoking is a leading cause of fires in residence halls.

- ✓ ***Does the school have policies that electrical appliances and power strips be certified as safe and reliable?***

Overloaded power strips can cause fires.



- ✓ ***How much fire prevention training does the residence hall staff receive?***
These people are key components in an effective fire safety program.

- ✓ ***How often is evacuation drills conducted?***
There should be at least one per semester.

- ✓ ***What is the school's disciplinary policy towards students that cause false alarms or fail to evacuate during an alarm?***

- ✓ ***Does the school provide fire extinguisher training for the students?***

Make a fire-safe informed decision when selecting your school!

Dormitory Fires:

Each year in the United States, there are an estimated 1,300 fires in high school, private and prep school, and university dormitories. These fires are responsible for less than 5 deaths, and approximately 50 injuries and \$4.1 million in property loss annually.

- One-third of dormitory fires are reported as arson (incendiary/suspicious).
- Cooking, the leading cause of residential fires is the second leading cause of dormitory fires (21%).
- Smoking is the third leading cause of dormitory fires (14%).
- Most injuries (56%) from dormitory fires are incurred while the victim attempts to suppress the blaze.

Are candles a fire hazard? IF they are properly used, no they are not a significant fire hazard. However, all too often, they are not used properly, or they are left unattended. This is when the fires occur.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 1998, the latest year for statistics, there were 12,540 home candle fires. This is an important fact since almost 2/3 of the students in the United States live off-campus in homes and apartments.

Almost half (44%) of the fires are started in the bedrooms. Candle fires cause an average of \$144.5 million in damage each year and kills an average of 119 people.

Candle fires have been rising dramatically over the past few years, probably because of the increasing demand for candles. Over the past four years, the candle industry has tripled in response to this demand.

Candle fires in student housing...

Amherst MA...fraternity completely destroyed by an unattended candle
New York, NY...graduate student killed by candles that ignited her bedding
Pullman, WA...fraternity damaged by a fire caused when a candle ignited bedding
Oxford, OH...a fraternity brother was seriously injured in a fire started by an unattended candle
Smithfield, RI...two students injured in a dormitory fire started by a candle
Burlington, VT...a dormitory fire was started by an unattended candle.
East Lansing, MI...a fire broke out in a resident assistant's room while it was occupied, damaging the contents
State College, PA...a candle fire in an off-campus apartment building caused significant damage to the apartment and surrounding area.

Alcohol and Fire Safety

Alcohol as a factor in fire deaths...

Some studies have found that approximately one-half of the adults who die in house fires have high BAC (blood alcohol count) values, a finding that is consistent with the disproportionate number of deaths that occur in house fires on weekends,



when people tend to consume more alcohol. This is important when one considers that almost 2/3 of the nation's students live off-campus in houses and apartments. There is also a probable connection between smoking and drinking. Minnesota has been conducting autopsies on all fire fatalities. In the period from 1993 to 1996 there were 255 deaths caused by

fire. Out of these, 30% were found to have positive blood alcohol concentrations. The leading cause of death among this group was smoking materials, which

represented 64%, versus the non-alcohol impaired group which had only 37% of the deaths caused by smoking.

Campus fires involving alcohol

Chapel Hill, North Carolina...In the 1996 fraternity fire that killed five students, four of them had blood alcohol levels of over 0.14. This fire broke out following a party the evening before, as had the fire in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania where three males were killed.

Burlington, Vermont...At a fire in an off-campus house three residents was injured, one seriously. Fire officials found evidence of alcohol in the area where the fire had started.

Amherst, Massachusetts...a fire the day following a party destroyed the fraternity. There were large numbers of empty beer cans. The smoke detectors had all been covered with bags so they would not activate during the party.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md., Jan. 28, 2006 — David Ellis never had a chance when fire blocked the door of his basement apartment last week near the University of Maryland.

Next Month Part II Document Replacement, Money Replacement and Insurance Contacts

NY Fire Consultants Services:

Fire and Life Safety Consulting

- Fire and Life Safety Inspections
- Fire Safety Plans for Residential Buildings (LL 10 of 1999)
- Fire Safety & Evacuation Plans Commercial (Class E) Buildings

Interior Fire Alarms Consultants

Emergency Procedures Manuals

Fire & Evacuation Preparedness Training

Violations Correction & Removal

- Environmental Control Board
- Fire & Building Department
- Housing Preservation & Development