
IT'S NOT YOUR PARENTS' JOB ANYMORE: The Basics of College Fire Safety

If a fire should occur...

- Close the doors to stop the spread of fire.
- Pull the building's fire alarm and alert others as you're leaving.
- Get out of the building immediately. Don't stop to grab your things; they can be replaced, but you can't.
- Notify the fire department from outside the building.
- Do not go back inside the building to retrieve any belongings.

You are at a higher risk of fire if...

- You live in unsprinklered housing.
- You do not have a working smoke alarm.
- You do not have a fire extinguisher and/or do not know how to use it.
- You are under the influence of alcohol.
- You leave candles unattended or burn them near flammable materials, such as posters, wall tapestries and bedding.
- You smoke cigarettes and throw them away carelessly.
- You plug too many appliances into a single outlet or extension cord.

You can protect yourself if you...

- **Smoke Alarms:**
 - Ensure that your residence hall, apartment, or house has working smoke alarms.
 - Check the batteries regularly.
 - Don't cover smoke alarms with posters, wall tapestries and furniture.
- **Fire Extinguishers:**
 - Buy a fire extinguisher and learn how to use it BEFORE a fire breaks out.
 - Regularly check your fire extinguisher to make sure it is fully charged.
- **Sprinklers:**
 - Live in an apartment or residence hall that has a sprinkler system, which significantly increases your chance of surviving a fire.
- **Candles:**
 - Always extinguish candles before going to bed or leaving the room.
 - Keep candles away from items that could easily catch fire.
- **Extension Cords:**
 - Use UL-listed extension cords and do not plug too many appliances into a single outlet. This could cause them to overload, heat up and catch fire.
 - Don't run extension cords under carpets.
- **Cigarettes and Alcohol:**
 - Do not leave smoking materials burning; fully extinguish cigarettes when you are through with them.
 - Do not throw cigarette butts in the trash.
 - Search couch and chair cushions for smoldering cigarettes.

- Drink responsibly. Studies show that more than half of all fire victims were under the influence of alcohol.
- **Escape:**
 - Have a fire escape ladder as an alternate route from a second or third floor bedroom.
 - Know two ways out of every building.

For more tips and information, visit www.campusfire.org.

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