

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

Updated January 31, 2010



The following information has been compiled by Campus Firewatch. Please note that much of this information is gathered by monitoring the wire services so the actual number of fatal fires, especially in off-campus occupancies, may be higher. Information regarding the fatal fires is confirmed by Campus Firewatch with local fire department officials prior to inclusion.

Fatal Fires 2009-2010 academic year

University of North Carolina – Wilmington	Wilmington, NC	1 killed in an off-campus fire*
Wheaton College	Wheaton, IL	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Western State College of Colorado	Gunnison, CO	2 killed in an off-campus fire
2009-2010 Academic year total		4

*The victim in this fire had just graduate several weeks before the fire and was still living in the apartment that she lived in while attending UNC-Wilmington. She was in the process of moving to start a new job but had not yet left the apartment. For this reason, this fire is being qualified as a campus-related incident even though the victim, technically, was not a student at the time of the fire.

Campus-related fire fatalities from January 2000 to present

Occupancy	Deaths	% of total
Off-campus	117	84%
Residence Hall	10	7%
Greek housing	10	7%
Other	2	1%
Total	139	

According to the U.S. Department of Education, there are approximately 18,000,000 students enrolled in 4,100 colleges and universities across the country. Approximately 2/3 of the students live in off-campus housing.

Annual number of fatalities by academic year

2000 (partial)	8
2000-2001	17
2001-2002	15
2002-2003	14

2003-2004	12
2004-2005	14
2005-2006	11
2006-2007	20

2007-2008	18
2008-2009	6
2009-2010	4 YTD

Common Factors

According to information compiled by Campus Firewatch, over 83 percent of the campus-related fire fatalities across the nation since January 2000 have occurred in off-campus housing. Four common factors in a number of these fires include:

- Lack of automatic fire sprinklers
- Missing or disabled smoke alarms
- Careless disposal of smoking materials
- Impaired judgment from alcohol consumption

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

Updated January 31, 2010



Significant, multiple-fatality fires

Since January 2000, approximately 20% of the fires have killed 43% of the victims. In other words, a small percentage of the fires, which are classified by Campus Firewatch as significant, multiple-fatality fires, are killing a large number of the victims. Most of these fires were off-campus.

1/19/00	Seton Hall University	3	8/27/04	University of Mississippi	3
3/19/00	Bloomsburg University	3	4/10/05	Miami University	3
8/20/00	Berkeley, California	3	6/7/05	Cons. of Recording and Arts	3
11/2/01	Virginia Commonwealth Univ.	3	1/13/07	Marshall University	5
2/15/02	Univ. of NC-Greensboro	4	2/3/07	MS State Univ.-Meridian	3
4/13/03	Ohio State University	5	10/28/07	U of S. Carolina and Clemson	7
9/20/03	Univ. of Minnesota-Twin Cities	3	4/5/08	U of Wisconsin-Stout	3
5/22/04	Indiana University	3	1/23/09	International Business College	3

National Campus Fire Safety Month

September is nationally recognized as National Campus Fire Safety Month. Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate have passed resolutions. In 2009, 26 states issued proclamations designating September as National Campus Fire Safety Month. Since the program started in 2005, 136 proclamations have been signed by the nation's governors. A list of the states along with an interactive map where you can download the proclamations is available at www.campus-firewatch.com/stateproc.html. More information on National Campus Fire Safety Month can be found at www.campusafiresafetymonth.org.

Education Programs

Educating students about fire safety is a priority to help protect students, no matter where they live. Campus Firewatch has been closely involved in the development of a free, online education program for college students at www.igot2kno.org.

How are incidents chosen for inclusion?

Campus Firewatch has been monitoring the wire services since 2000 to identify fire incidents involving students resulting in the largest compilation of student-related fire incidents. Using this methodology, CFW has been able to identify a significant number of fatal fires that have occurred in off-campus occupancies that normally are not identified as involving students in official reports.

The criterion for including incidents is those that involve students or student housing and that the student(s) were present because of school. In some cases this might be clear-cut; in others it may involve some discretion in making a decision. Basically, if a fire death occurs in an occupancy where the outcome could have been changed if the students had fire safety knowledge, then it is considered for inclusion. Also, if there are other victims that were in the occupancy (such as family members) that were present because of the student, they are also included in the total. The rationale is that a fire can occur, no matter where they are, and that the student may have had an opportunity to change the outcome based on knowledge that he or she may have been able to obtain from the school.

What is Campus Firewatch? Campus Firewatch, in publication since 2000, is a social enterprise focusing solely on campus fire safety issues. It has been a leader in raising awareness of the importance of fire safety at our nation's campuses and a catalyst for numerous projects and efforts over the years.

More information can be found online at www.campus-firewatch.com.