

Fire Safety on Campus...

Questions for everyone to ask

Between January 2000 and June 2008, 129 people have died in campus-related fires, both on- and off-campus, across the country and countless others have been burned, lost their housing, personal belongings and school work in fires.

When visiting a school or choosing housing, make an informed decision. This is critically important for off-campus housing, where 80% of the fire fatalities have occurred.

Ask these questions...

- **Is there a person on campus whose full-time job is fire safety?** Not all campuses have someone dedicated to just fire safety.
- **How many fires have occurred campus in the past year? How about fires in off-campus student housing?** How many people have been killed or injured?
- **Are residence halls, Greek Housing or off-campus housing 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. Many residence halls are not sprinklered - ask for your student to be put in sprinklered housing.
- **Does every student's room have a smoke alarm?** Does it send a signal to campus security of 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.
- **What are the disciplinary steps taken against anyone who causes a false alarm, fails to evacuate during an alarm or tampers with fire safety equipment?**
- **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.
- **What items are prohibited in residence halls because of fire safety?** Are smoking, candles and Halogen lamps prohibited in the residence halls? If not, they should be.
- **Does the school have policies that electrical appliances and power strips be certified as safe and reliable?**
- **How much fire prevention training does the residence hall staff receive?**
- **How often do the students themselves receive fire prevention education?** This should continue throughout their academic career, not just while they are living in the residence halls.
- **How often are evacuation drills conducted?** There should be at least one per semester.
- **How often are fire safety inspections of the residence halls and student rooms done?** Are the results made available to students and parents?

Make an informed, fire-safe decision when choosing a school!

For more information, contact

CAMPUS
Firewatch

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