



Office of Student Standard
Presents:

FIRE SAFETY

Fire, A Silent Disaster

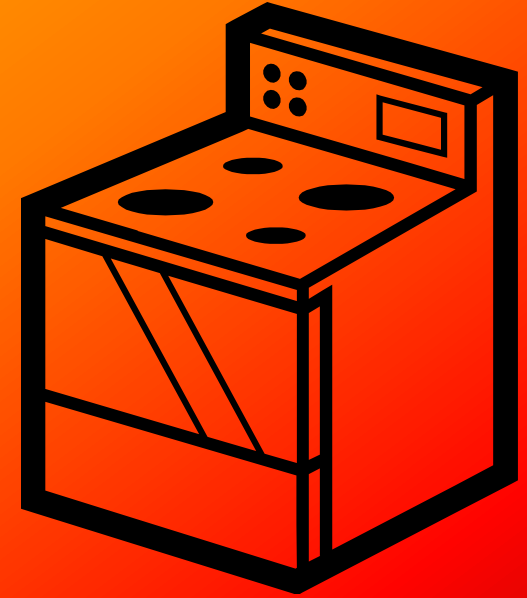
- An estimated 3,800 university housing fires occur each year in the United States.
- Since 2007 there have been 113 fire related deaths of college students.
- Each day an average of 4 fires break out in University housing.
- Most college fires occur at off-campus residences.
- University fires peak in Sep.& Oct. accounting for 23% of fires



Types of Fires

(1) Confined Fires: fires that are confined to specific types of equipment or objects

-83.6 % of University Fires



(2) Non-Confined Fires: fires that are not confined to a specific area

-16.4 % of University Fires



Types of Fires

(3) Class A: Ordinary combustibles such as papers, rags, wood, ect.

- This could start with an ash tray or smoldering cigarette left near a stack of papers on a desk.

(4) Class B: Oil, flammable solvents, gasoline, grease, ect.

- This could happen while cooking with the result of grease catching fire.

(5) Class C: Electrical fires, energized electrical equipment

- If you do not check for frayed electrical cords this type of fire is likely to happen.





University Policy



- Fire drills shall be regularly conducted within all University buildings
 - Each Residence Hall has at least 1 fire drill per month
 - Each Classroom Building has at least 1 fire drill per semester

Fire drills shall include suitable procedures that will insure that all persons in the building actually participate. Fire alarm facilities shall be used to implement all fire drills. Fire drills should emphasize orderly evacuation. Fire drills shall not include any fire extinguishing operations. All evacuees shall, once outside the building, remain a reasonable distance away from the building and all entrances.

Common Mistakes

- Not leave buildings when the fire alarm is sounding
- Not taking fire safety procedures seriously
- Not knowing fire codes (off campus), fire policies and procedures (on campus)



University Fire Safety

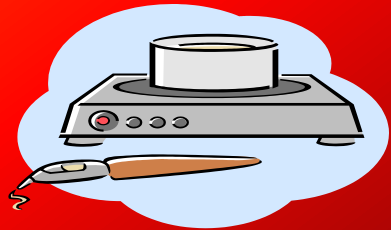
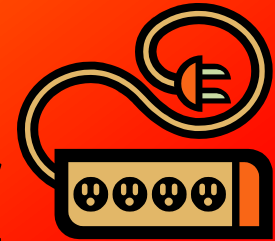
- Each residence hall room and apartment has a sprinkler(s) head and one or more hard-wired smoke detector. The hallways and common areas are equipped in a similar fashion.
- Monthly fire drills are conducted as required by state law.
- Candles, incense, cooking devices (i.e. hot plates, etc) are not permitted for safety reasons. It's important that all students review what is and is not allowed in the residence hall as most of these decisions are made for safety reasons. University Safety and Police are responsible for conducting fire safety training





What is NOT allowed in Residence Halls

- Candles, incense, cooking devices (i.e. hot plates, etc), and multi-prong electrical cords are not permitted for safety reasons.
- It's important that all students review what is and is not allowed in the residence hall as most of these decisions are made for safety reasons.
- University Safety and Police are
- responsible for conducting fire safety training



Code of Conduct Violation

Creating Safety Hazards :

The misuse of safety equipment or to ignore safety procedures is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. This section includes but is not limited to dropping objects from high places, tampering with fire equipment/smoke detectors, exit lights, guard rails, elevators or fire alarms, refusal to obey fire alarms, or initiating false alarms.

Don't Let This Happen To Your Dorm Room



Smoke Alarms + Sprinklers + Closed Doors = Lives Saved in Dorm Fires

Experiment at University of Arkansas on Fire Safety

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have demonstrated that the correct combination of automatic fire sprinkler systems, smoke alarms and closed doors provided enough time and safe conditions for residents to escape safely and for firefighters to perform their job without undue hazard.





Town Ordinances

- The town of Bloomsburg states it is unlawful to set off any false alarms, and/or to occupy premises with disabled smoke or fire detection devices.
- One smoke detector shall be installed on each floor used for human habitation, if a wood burning stove or fireplace is installed
- Any person, owner, agent or tenant who begins to install or modifies a chimney, fireplace, smoke pipe or wood and/or coal heating or cooking equipment without a permit as provided for in this Part or who installs, begins to install, modify or renovate a chimney, fireplace, smoke pipe, wood and/or coal heating or cooking equipment without a permit or in violation of the specifications of this Part shall be, upon conviction thereof, ***sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 30 days.***

Why is Fire Safety a Concern?

- Fire's Kill
 - Smoke Inhalation causes 85 % of fire related deaths
- Fire's cause Injury
 - Mild to extreme burns are often results of fires
- Property Damage
 - Most college students do not have Renters Insurance or Personal Property Insurance
- -Lack of Fire Alarms
 - 43% of home fire deaths occur in homes without smoke alarms



Alcohol use contributes to an estimated 40% of residential fire deaths

Most people think it can't
happen to them!

Take a moment and read some
of these articles related to fire
safety on the next several
slides...

3 killed in fire at Bloomsburg fraternity house Flames swept through and quickly destroyed the building. Three got out. The victims are believed to be students

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. - A fire destroyed a fraternity house near Bloomsburg University early yesterday, killing three people who officials say they believe were students from the Tau Kappa Epsilon House (TKE) on East Fourth Street.

The coroner is waiting for dental records, officials said. "They're relatively sure that they know" the identities, Sgt. Leo Sokoloski said last night. "But they aren't going to release those names."

Six males were in the home at the time of the fire, Bloomsburg Police Chief Larry Smith said, one resident escaped through a second-floor window, and the other two may have gotten out through the front door, he said. The cause of the fire was not known last night.

In 1994, a morning fire at the Beta Sigma Delta house killed five students, prompting Bloomsburg town and university officials to form a task force to draft safety recommendations for students living off campus.

The parents of the three fraternity-house residents who had not been accounted for are in Bloomsburg awaiting word about their children, said Kozloff.

The Bloomsburg Police Department received an emergency call about the fire at 6:05 a.m., and officials arrived in less than a minute to find the fraternity house engulfed in flames, Sokoloski said.

He said the home burned to the ground, collapsing into the basement, forcing officials to use heavy equipment to sift through the remains of the two-story structure. "By the way that the fire burned and how fast it burned and how hot it burned, it's going to make it difficult for our investigators and the fire marshals to determine the origin of the fire," Sokoloski said.

Smith said there had been a gathering at the fraternity house the night before, and some were still awake at 3:30 a.m., when there were six people in the house.

TKE is an 18-member fraternity. The TKE house had 12 code violations when the Bloomsburg Code Enforcement Office inspected it in October 1999. Among them, it had an electrical system that could not support five portable electric heaters; the fire extinguisher had been discharged; and a smoke detector was not working, according to Dean Von Blohn, Bloomsburg's code-enforcement officer.

By Michelle M. Martinez
INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

Five people die when blaze guts residence near eastern university

Associated Press

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. A fire gutted a house near the **Bloomsburg University** campus this morning, killing five people.

The dead were believed to be students.

Fire investigators focused their investigation on a sofa on a porch. Bloomsburg Fire Chief Ralph Magill said a fire started in the sofa earlier in the night, but students thought it had been extinguished.

Students said a party was held Thursday at the house, which is about a mile from campus, and some guests may have been sleeping over. Thursday was the eve of homecoming

weekend on the campus.

At least some of the five students living in the home belonged to Beta Sigma Delta, but it wasn't a regular fraternity house, university spokesman Jim Hollister said. Identities of the dead were not released, but all five were believed to be students, he said.

Five bodies were taken from the heavily damaged house late this morning.

One of the dead was a woman.

About 7,400 students are enrolled at the 155-year-old campus about 100 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

About 57 percent of the students live off campus.



Associated Press

Firefighters remove the body of a Bloomsburg (Pa.) University student from the remains of an off-campus house where five people died in a morning fire Friday

Bloomsburg Downtown Fire

25 October 2009, By: Richard Ganahl

An early Sunday morning fire sent two people to the hospital, destroyed 3 buildings and left 22 residents homeless according to a WBRE News story. The fire apparently started around 6 am in the second floor apartment's kitchen at 148 West Main Street.

Firefighters from a number of communities responded to the morning fire including Bloomsburg, Berwick, Danville, Benton and Espy.

Geiger said Blanchard had been slated to go to Horizon House, a half- with parole stipulations, regularly re- ne said.

Fraternity house fire kills 5 at Bloomsburg University

By MICHAEL A. GIARRUSSO
The Associated Press

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. — A joyous homecoming weekend turned tragic Friday when a smoldering sofa ignited a blaze at a fraternity house hours after a party, burning five people to death.

Residents believed the sofa fire had been extinguished when they put it out on the porch of the two-story wood house near the Bloomsburg University campus, Fire Chief Ralph Magill said.

"The entire porch area was engulfed in flames and you couldn't even find the second floor," Magill said. "It took about 45 minutes to get under control."

Four people escaped unharmed from the dawn blaze that killed four

men and a woman. Four of the victims and a dog were found dead on the second floor. The other victim was found on the first floor.

Batteries had been taken out of the smoke detectors in the house, a common practice during smoke-filled parties, Coroner All Alley said.

Five members of the Beta Sigma Delta fraternity lived in the house. Identities of the dead were not released, but all five were believed to be enrolled, **university** spokesman Jim Hollister said.

Positive identification could take several days with the help of dental records. Early evidence shows the victims burned to death, Alley said.

Shelley Mohr was one of many who walked by the house in tears hours after the fire.

She said one of the victims was a

good friend who volunteered at a woman's crisis center and lectured on date rape. "I have always had a lot of respect for him," she said. "He was a great person."

During an afternoon rally, university President Jessica Kosloff urged sobbing students to comfort each other.

"Please be assured we are doing everything within our means to provide support, counseling and care for everyone in the university community that has been touched by this tragedy," she said.

The central Pennsylvania university was preparing for homecoming weekend, highlighted by Bloomsburg's football game against Kutztown today.

About 7,400 students are enrolled at the 155-year-old campus.

Reading Eagle - Mar 22, 2000

Fire site at college searched

■ While officials continue to hunt for answers at the **Bloomsburg** University fraternity house, rumors about fireworks have not been substantiated.

Associated Press

BLOOMSBURG - Police continue to search the rubble of Bloomsburg University's Tau Kappa Epsilon house, still trying to find the cause of a fire that killed three students last weekend.

On Tuesday, the coroner confirmed the identity of the third person killed in the fire as Kristofer Polhemus, 22, of Hampton, N.J. He was a senior majoring in biology. Also killed in Sunday's 6 a.m. blaze were fraternity President Marcus LaBuda, 31, of Hazleton, and Cliff Vail, 21, of Dunellen, N.J.

Dr. Michael Kenny, Columbia County's coroner, said he expected the results of toxicology tests in three or four weeks to determine if the students had alcohol or drugs in their systems.

"On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I want to express our sorrow at the tragic fire that claimed the lives of three Bloomsburg University students," Gov. Tom Ridge said Tuesday. "All were in the prime of their lives."

"All were in college - learning about what they someday would do, and forming who they someday would become. All leave behind families who miss them terribly. And all leave behind a college campus and Pennsylvania community in shock."

The fire happened after a party that ended around 3:30 a.m. Sunday. The complete destruction of the house has hampered the search for a cause.

A Bloomsburg police statement Tuesday said they had not substantiated rumors that someone set off fireworks around the house Saturday. Investigators found a weathered, rocket-type firework in a nearby yard.

State police fire marshals did not return calls seeking comment.

LaBuda's funeral is set for Thursday in Hazelton. Vail is to be buried Friday in Duncan. Polhemus' family has not finalized arrangements.



An early-morning blaze damaged several buildings and left nearly two dozen students homeless in Bloomsburg.

A fire broke out on West Main Street in Bloomsburg around 6AM Sunday. Several area fire departments responded to the 100-block of West Main Street to battle the rapid spreading fire. Several buildings have been damaged or destroyed by the fire. It has also been reported that multiple students have been displaced.

WBRE News is reporting that 22 people have been displaced from their homes and businesses between the 148 and 150 blocks of West Main Street in Bloomsburg. One person has been flown to the Lehigh Valley Burn Unit. Their name and condition is unknown at this time.

The fire spread quickly Sunday morning in downtown Bloomsburg and left behind a mess. The fire started just before 6 a.m. in a building on West Main Street, and then spread to three other buildings. Many of the students are Bloomsburg University students.

In the early morning hours, fire glowed orange in several buildings in the 100 block of West Main Street in Bloomsburg. Flames were through the roof as more than 75 firefighters from all over Columbia County tried to put them out. Apartments in the buildings were destroyed and so were the businesses downstairs.

The fire chief said the fire started in the second floor kitchen of one building. One person had to be rescued from that apartment and was flown to the hospital and treated for burns and smoke inhalation.

"Devastated. The hardest part is, I don't look at what we've lost, I just look at how are you going to move forward? You don't have clothes; you don't have a place to stay. There are just so many questions past the fire. That's all my concern is. I know things happen, it's a tragedy, but what do I do next?" asked Webb.

The Red Cross and Bloomsburg University have stepped in to help the people affected. A state police fire marshal was called in to investigate, but there is no word yet on what may have started the fire in Bloomsburg.

BU steps up fire prevention education

By Marcella Bombardieri, Globe Staff | March 20, 2007

After two off-campus apartment fires that left three students dead, Boston University officials are pledging to beef up education on fire safety with e-mails, fliers, and a new website.

"It is . . . important that we not retreat to business as usual when it comes to matters of personal safety," President Robert A. Brown and dean of students Kenneth Elmore wrote in an e-mail to students Sunday. "It is true that the recent fires were accidental; however, we should increase our collective obligation to do what we can to avoid similar tragedies in the future."

BU is also doing an extra round of inspection of campus buildings to make sure fire safety systems are in order.

A national group, Campus Firewatch, says at least 19 fire fatalities have occurred across the country this academic year in off-campus student residences or privately owned fraternities. That is the highest number of fire deaths on campuses or involving student residences since the group began tracking media reports in 2000. Eighty percent of college-related fire deaths occur in off-campus housing, the group says.

On Feb. 24, two BU students, Rhiannon McCuish, a 21-year-old from Mashpee, and Stephen Adelipour, a 21-year-old from GreatNeck, N.Y., were killed in a fire in an apartment on Aberdeen Street in Boston. Another student was seriously injured. The blaze was started by a burning candle, apparently lit after the building lost power.

Derek Crowl, a 19-year-old student from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, who was visiting a friend at BU over his spring break. Investigators believe the fire started after hot embers from a charcoal grill on the back porch smoldered on the wooden deck and a couch before bursting into flames around 6 a.m.

BU includes fire safety in its freshman orientation and sets strict rules about the use of appliances in campus housing, for example, banning coffee makers, torchere-style halogen lamps, and all microwaves except one model rented from the university. The university also has fire-safety tips on its website, including a page tailored to off-campus apartments.

But Elmore said BU now wants to be more aggressive about making sure all students, especially those living off campus, get the message on fire prevention, as well as other aspects of personal safety. He pointed out that students living independently for the first time may not be familiar with basic safety rules familiar to most adults. "We need to say: 'You are managing a household. You are managing your life a little bit more. You need to think about keeping yourself safe,' " he said.

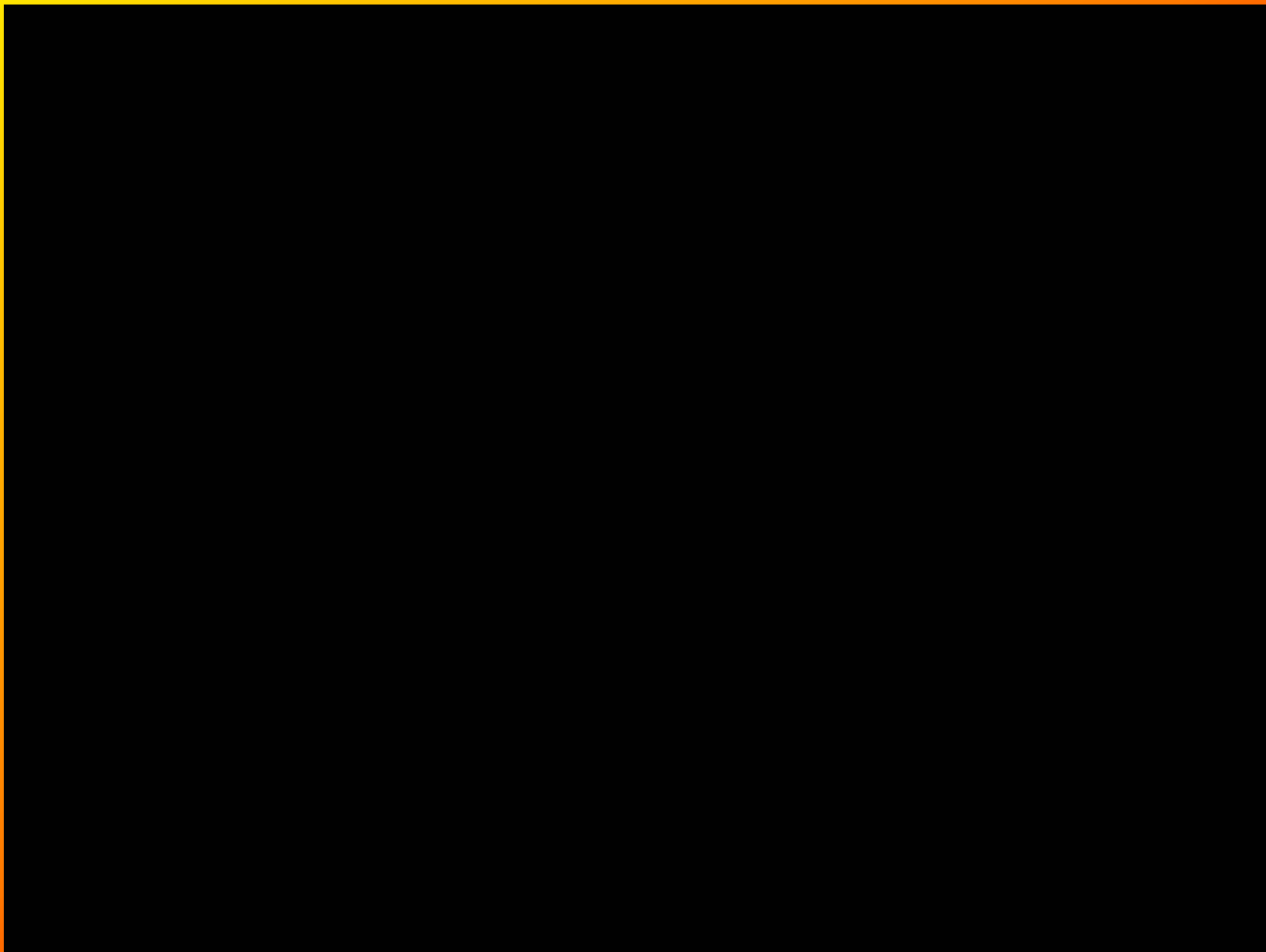
Campus Firewatch identifies four factors most likely to cause fires in student housing: lack of sprinklers, missing or disabled smoke alarms, careless disposal of smoking materials, and impaired judgment from alcohol

Next take a look at these videos...

Campus Fire Safety



**Underwriters
Laboratories**



NBC Nightly News
Sunday, September 24
Campus Fire Safety

5 Tips For Dorm Room Living

- **Keep Things Clean and Tidy**

Always keep boxes, trash and clothing out of the doorway and hallway; keeping these areas free from obstruction will allow everyone to exit quickly and safely in the event of a fire.

- **Cooking in Your Dorm Room**

Residence halls prohibit the use of hot plates, toasters, toaster ovens and other cooking appliances in dorm rooms. Dorm rooms are generally small and confined spaces; therefore, the heat produced by these types of appliances can easily and quickly cause fires - because of the close proximity of combustible books and papers

- **Do Not Use Halogen Lighting**

This is because of the extreme heat that halogen bulbs can create. Also, when halogen bulbs fail, it is not uncommon for them to create a small, popping-explosion.

- **Smoking in Your Dorm Room**

If you're a smoker, don't smoke in your dorm room - period. Besides the discomfort and potential health risk that you will give your non-smoking roommates, it can be very dangerous.

- **Don't Play with the Fire Alarm**

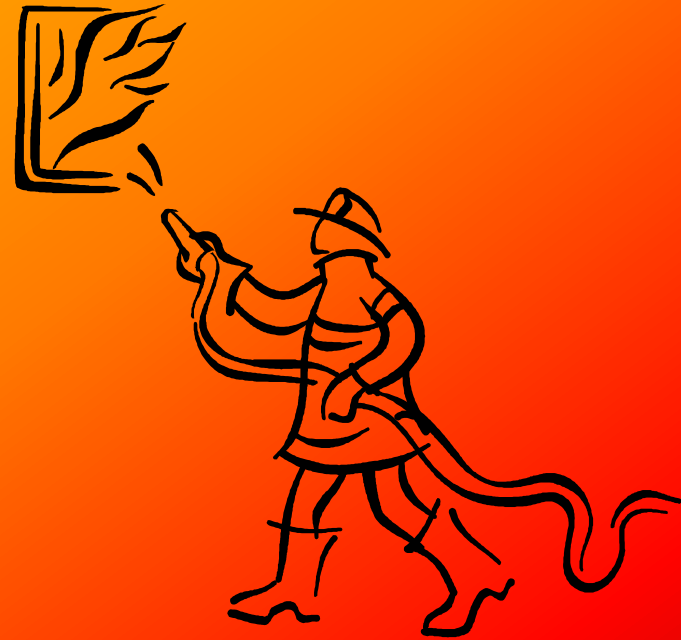
It is a common college prank to set off the fire alarm. This is not only childish and foolish - it is extremely dangerous. When students continuously set off the fire alarm for no reason, other students will begin to ignore the fire alarm completely.

Prevention

- Become Educated on Fire Safety
- Do Not tamper with any fire safety device
 - Do Not cover the smoke detector
- Plan and Practice Your Escape
 - Fire exits will be discussed in all Residence Halls
- Learn to use a Fire Extinguisher



Prevention



- Carefully discard cigarettes
 - Do Not Smoke Indoors
- Be Careful Cooking
 - Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles
 - Do Not leave items cooking unattended
- Use Electrical Safety
 - Multi-plug Cords are not permitted in Residence Halls
 - Do Not run electrical cords under the carpet or across the floor

During this presentation you have:

- Read about different types of fires
- Reviewed University Policies & Procedures, the Laws related to fire safety, & Town Ordinances
- Taken a look at previous fire related stories
- Reviewed tips and safety regarding fire prevention

**Now complete the knowledge check worksheet to
complete this “workshop”**