CAMPUS Firewatch™

Off-campus housing fire safety checklist

Since 2000, 85% of college-related fire fatalities have happened in off-campus housing, where most students live. When looking for a place, consider these 10 items:

Smoke Alarms

☐ Are there smoke alarms in every bedroom, on every level of the building?

☐ In most fatal fires, the smoke alarms are missing or disabled. Often, a reason for this is nuisance alarms caused by cooking. Photoelectric smoke alarms near the kitchen can help cut down on this. What kind of smoke alarms do you have?

Exits

☐ Are there two ways out of every bedroom? Keep in mind the second way out may be a window.

☐ If a window is the second way out, does it open? Is it blocked by an air conditioner? Can you climb out of it? Are there security bars on the window?

☐ If the bedroom is on a second or third floor, do you have an escape ladder? These can be purchased online or in a home improvement store.

☐ Is there a second way out of the house or unit? Every apartment must have two ways out.

Automatic Fire Sprinklers

☐ Is the building equipped with automatic fire sprinklers? This will increase your chances of surviving a fire <u>significantly</u>.

Fire Causes

☐ The leading cause of all home fires is cooking. What condition is the stove in?

☐ What about the electrical service? Are there enough outlets to handle today's electrical needs?

☐ What about smoking? The leading cause of all fatal home fires is smoking, and a contributing factor in college-related fires is fires that start in upholstered furniture on porches and decks.

There is a lot more to consider when looking for fire-safe housing, this is not a complete list. For more information on campus fire safety, visit
- Campus Firewatch (www.campus-firewatch.com)
- U.S. Fire Administration (www.ufsa.fema.gov)
- National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org)

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