

Campus Fire Safety Month

What is Campus Fire Safety Month?



Campus Fire Safety Month is a nationwide effort to raise fire and life safety awareness on campus. September is designated as “Campus Fire Safety Month.”

More students perished from campus-related fires in the last school year than during any of the years monitored by Campus Firewatch since 2000.

The Higher Education Act, which contains provisions from the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act introduced by Congressman Pascrell (NJ-8) and Senator Lautenberg (NJ), was signed into law, by President Bush. It will require colleges and universities to report fire safety information annually to the U.S. Secretary of Education and to make this information available to the public.

The bill still requires the Department of Education to complete the development of regulations. They have begun scheduling of 5 hearings over the next 6 weeks to determine how best to meet the regulatory requirements of the changes made to the law.

Fire Safety Tips For Residents on Campus

- Always know 2 ways out – wherever you are.
- Keep pizza boxes off the top of stoves. More than one fire has started by a burner being turned on.
- Smoke alarms can only save your life if you can hear them. Turn the music down.
- When the alarm sounds, get out. Do not assume it is a false alarm or drill.
- The most common killer in fires is smoke inhalation, not burns. Get down below the smoke.
- Do not overload your outlets or extension cords. They can overheat and start a fire.
- Use the stairs to evacuate, NOT the elevator.
- Don't run your extension cords under carpets. They can become frayed and start a fire.
- Use a lid to put out a grease fire. Water will spread the fire.
- Most fatal fires happen at night. Get up, get out, stay out when the alarm sounds.



Statistics—Fire Fatalities 2000-2007



94 people have lost their lives in sixty-six separate campus related fires. These fires occurred on a college campus, in Greek housing or in off-campus housing within 3-miles of the campus

- 54 fires have occurred in off-campus housing claiming 76 victims
- 6 fires have occurred in on-campus building or residence halls claiming 8 victims
- 6 fires have occurred in Greek housing claiming 10 victims

Of the 66 fires documented:

- 14 were intentionally set claiming 22 victims
- 29 were accidental – includes cooking, candles, smoking or electrical claiming 38 victims
- 23 of the fires- the cause was never determined. These fires claimed 34 victims.

If you do not have an
EMERGENCY QUICK
REFERENCE GUIDE
please call (229) 293-6171
or email
cfstorey@valdosta.edu
for your free booklet.

**Remember - if you are in an emergency situation call
University Police at (229) 259-5555**



All information adapted from www.campus-firewatch.com, www.campusfiresafety.org, and www.usfa.dhs.gov.