

CAMPUS Firewatch™

AUGUST 2000

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NFPA Fall Meeting

There is going to be a definite focus on campus fire safety at the NFPA Fall Educational Conference this November in Orlando, Florida.

On Sunday, November 12, the NFPA Education Section is sponsoring a session from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. called Student Housing Fire Safety: A National Perspective... Protecting Our Most Valuable Resource.

Aftermath - Part II

Ed Comeau, writer-tech.com

This is the conclusion of a two-part article that first appeared in the July issue of Campus Firewatch. The article addresses how Bloomsburg University dealt with the events following the tragic fire that killed three students in March of this year.

Internal Communications

Just as important as it was to provide information to the media, it was equally as important to provide information to the campus community.

Over the years, Bloomsburg has had to deal with a number of different emergencies. "Because of the number of situations where they have had to deal with these unfortunate situations, we had developed the ability to deal with this particular tragedy," said Sowash.

Some of the procedures that they have developed include providing accurate information to the students. Several years ago, they had several rapes on campus and there was a lot of misinformation circulating, which created difficulties in trying to determine the scope of the problem. As a result, they developed a system to communicate with the students.

There are bulletin boards in all of the classrooms and on the front doors of all the buildings on campus where information is posted. "UNN stands for University News Network. It came out when CNN was taking off, so we adopted it," stated Sowash. The paper that is used for UNN announcements is a distinctive color, and the content "is extremely factual."

Another communications mechanism used is email, as well as a safety telephone hotline. The extension is 2723, or BSAF, which stands for "Be Safe." If there is no news, there is a recorded safety message.

On the day following the March fire, a campus-wide meeting with all of the students was organized. It was held in a large auditorium and the notices went out via email and the UNN notifying everyone that classes were suspended and that the meeting was going to take place. "It was important to bring the campus community together," said Herring.

Staff Support

Throughout the incident, the staff was continually asking each other if they had covered all of the bases. "We were using each other as sounding boards," reported Sowash. They would rotate who came in early and who had to stay late.

There was a certain amount of emotional drain on the staff dealing with the incident. For example, when it came time for the memorial services and the funerals, the staff was concerned whether they should attend all of them, because there were going to be many services. Sowash summed it up by saying that "you can't go to all of them, especially when you are dealing with your own emotions. The more you try to do it all, and go to it all, you lose the stamina to deal with it and you get stressed and anxious. It is important

FROM THE Editor

The end of the summer vacation is fast approaching, and within weeks students will be moving back into dormitories, fraternities, sororities and apartments across the country. They are going to be meeting their old friends, making new ones and having the experience of "being on their own."

With this experience, however, does come a certain burden of responsibility. Responsibility to themselves and the others around them.

One of the most tragic aspects of fires in campus housing is that the fire endangers the innocent because of the number of young people living close together. No matter how responsible someone may be, the carelessness of one person can place hundreds of people at risk. One fire, started by one person either deliberately or accidentally, can kill and injure many.

College is a new experience for young people, and at times their behavior places them at risk. While there are changes being made in areas such as alcohol consumption, there are other areas where we have not been as successful. Fire safety is one.

We can't always modify the behavior, but we can certainly create an environment where the results of the behavior won't have tragic consequences. I'm talking about fire-safe buildings incorporating passive design features such as fire doors, fire walls, and sound exit design, among others. Active design features include fire alarm systems and sprinkler systems. All of this blended together will provide a safer environment in which our young people can live.

And let us not forget fire prevention. Making them aware of the dangers of some of their actions and the consequences is not always easy. Students are being bombarded with a multitude of messages from advertisers and they are focusing on their studies...gaining their attention about something as "mundane" as fire safety is difficult, but not impossible.

Fire safety is a shared responsibility. Parents need to ensure that the buildings where their children are living are fire-safe, and more parents are starting to ask questions about the fire safety aspects of student housing. Students have to make sure their behavior doesn't place others at risk. Fire safety professionals have to be diligent in their efforts to ensure that these properties are safe and that the local codes and ordinance are adequate. Housing officials, landlords and property owners are obligated to provide a safe environment, and should be encouraged to go beyond the bare minimums required by the codes.

We need to work together for the same goal. Safe campuses everywhere.

Ed Comeau, the editor of Campus Firewatch, is the former chief fire investigator for the National Fire Protection Association. He began his involvement in campus fire safety as a fire fighter with the Amherst, Massachusetts, fire department while pursuing his degree in civil engineering. He can be reached at publisher@campus-firewatch.com.

CAMPUS AUGUST 2000 Firewatch™

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Campus fire safety is a complex issue. The information in this newsletter is provided to help you in your efforts to provide as fire-safe a community as possible. However, it is no replacement for professional advice. For further assistance, contact your local fire department.

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Pennsylvania Sprinkler Legislation

On July 20, 2000, a hearing was held in State College, Pennsylvania, before the Pennsylvania House Labor Relations Committee. The Committee was hearing testimony regarding House Bill 2458, which is calling for sprinklers to be installed in dormitories across the state.

The following people testified at this hearing:

Ed Comeau, Publisher, Campus Firewatch

Gary Lewis, Chief Inspector, City of Summit, New Jersey Coalition for Safe Student Housing

Kenneth Lehn, National Fire Sprinkler Association

Thomas Gibson, Assistant Vice President, Auxiliary & Business Services, Pennsylvania State University

Bill Hoffman, Advisor, Alpha Gamma Rho, Pennsylvania State University

Walter Wise, Fire Administrator, Center Region Council of Governments

Mr. Comeau's testimony centered around the need for not only sprinklers, but an all inclusive program using the PODS approach—prevention, occupant awareness, detection and suppression. (A copy of his testimony is on the RESOURCE page of the Campus Firewatch web site www.campus-firewatch.com)

Mr. Lewis provided some background on the legislation that was just signed in New Jersey. Mr. Lehn used this opportunity to clarify some information that had been provided in the first hearing and to explain how the installation of sprinkler systems could be done in such a manner as to minimize the impact upon the residents and the building operations.

Mr. Gibson provided an overview of the fire safety program at Pennsylvania State University. While he felt that sprinklers would help to improve the level of fire safety, he felt that they were not necessary, and would create an undue financial burden upon the students. Furthermore, he did not believe that they could be installed within the five-year timeframe called for in the legislation because of the interruption that it would create in the residence halls.

Mr. Hoffman spoke of the need to include the Greek system in this legislation, since

that is where a number of fires are occurring, and some fraternities may not be able to shoulder the burden of installing a sprinkler system without assistance.

Mr. Wise discussed the history of fires in Center Region and from his experience in Maryland.

All of the witnesses spoke strongly in favor of improved fire safety in all campus housing, and everyone, with one exception, were ardent supporters of sprinklers as a means to this end. Following all of the testimony, Representative Belfanti summarized his feelings based on the testimony provided. He was going to propose that the committee recommend that Greek housing be included in the legislation, along with the dormitories.

According to Representative Belfanti's office, there will probably be one more hearing on this legislation, possibly in September. Following this hearing, the committee will then make any amendments to the legislation before it is returned to the legislature. This year's legislative session is scheduled to end on November 30, 2000.

Copies of the testimony provided at this hearing, as well as the text of the proposed legislation, are available on the Campus Firewatch RESOURCE page at www.campus-firewatch.com.

Back to School

A web site promoting "back to school" items for college bound students had some interesting items listed. Among them:

Hot Pot: "Perfect for dorm cooking, this convenient hot pot is a whiz at making tea, instant soup, hot cocoa and more. Safe and easy to use, it heats water more quickly than a microwave and more safely than a hot burner."

Rituals Candles: "Candles designed to make you think. When you break the seal and open the scroll surrounding each candle you will find a special ritual there to guide you."

Aromatherapy Gift Sets: "Exams, projects, deadlines! Dissolve the day's stress with a few minutes of quiet and the healing power of aromatherapy. These candles are made with natural dyes and oils derived from nature's most fragrant plants, fruits and flowers."

Insurance

While testifying at a hearing before the Pennsylvania Committee on Labor Relations on their sprinkler legislation, each of the witnesses was asked what type of impact sprinklers would have upon insurance premiums. Campus Firewatch asked some people involved in insuring both Greek houses and campuses for some estimates.

One insurance company for fraternities estimated that they would offer a 30% discount if a property was fully sprinklered. Another company that insures sororities said that their discount would run about 15%. The reason they said that their discount is low is because they already have low rates on sororities as "preferred properties."

A third company that insures campuses said that they would offer a reduction of about 15% to 20% if the campus went from non-sprinklered to sprinklered buildings.

Fraternity Fires

The following two articles appeared in the March, 2000 newsletter of the Phi Mu Delta Fraternity. Reprinted with permission.

Claims MuEP House At Penn State

by Pat Nipper '96, Past Alumni President

The past year ended on a disappointing note for the Mu Epsilon chapter. On December 17, 1999, the vacant chapter house caught fire during the middle of the night. You may recall that the house had been vacant since it was condemned for being structurally unsafe in 1998. The damage was substantial. The third and fourth floors were decimated and the roof collapsed. Thankfully, no one was hurt in the blaze. The cause is still under investigation by the State College police department; arson is suspected.

Because of the fire and the already precarious financial situation of the chapter, the Alumni Board was forced to sell the house to a local investor. The investor currently has no plans for the property; one option we will suggest to him will be to construct a new fraternity which could be leased to our group.

The proceeds from the sale are being held in the alumni corporation account until a new fraternity house can be purchased. In the meantime, our undergraduate chapter has secured fraternity housing for the 2000-2001 school year. They will move out of their apartments and once again live together in a group setting. We have a strong undergraduate group that has learned how to stick together in hard times. The housing situation has taught them how to function as a brotherhood that shares much more in common than just an address.

Fire Protection Systems? Worth their weight in gold!

The alumni of Nu Omicron bemoaned the amount of money they were required to spend last year on upgrading the chapter house's sprinkler and smoke alarm capabilities in the midst of all the other "financially pressing" matters at the time. However, that money paid off in an instant last month when someone stuffed a pillow under one of the new steel fire doors and set it ablaze in the middle of the night as a campus prank. "The house filled quickly with smoke," said alumni president Jim Murphy, "but the system activated itself immediately, just like it was supposed to, awakening the sleeping members so they could get out safely." The Keene Police and Fire Departments responded almost instantly. The only damage to the hundred-plus-year-old, three-story wood frame structure was the need for a new steel fire door and to eventually air out the smell of smoke. The police have apprehended two suspects who will be prosecuted for the incident.

"Phi Mu Delta annually distributes materials to its chapters on fire safety awareness and fire prevention equipment," said National President Dave Smittle. A new video titled "Get Out and Stay Alive" was distributed this past fall to all chapters. "Materials available from all the national fire prevention and sprinkler trade associations on this topic...even the ability to refer interested chapters to national lending groups which can offer attractive rates...have been shared with chapters in order to encourage sprinkler and/or alarm systems be installed in the houses," Smittle added. Chapter and housing corporations which desire more information on this important and timely topic are encouraged to contact the national fraternity for assistance along these lines.



Campus Firewatch Website

The value of this newsletter doesn't stop with just this copy. Visit its companion website at www.campus-firewatch.com, where you will find a wealth of information relating to campus fire safety. Included on the site is...

- *Model legislation from Chapel Hill, North Carolina*
- *Lesson plans*
- *Pending federal and state legislation*
- *Testimony given before state legislatures*
- *Breaking news*
- *Fire facts*
- *...and more!*

If you have something that you would like to contribute, please send it to us at publisher@campus-firewatch.com

See you there!

Aftermath - continued from page 1

to take care of yourself if you are in one of the command centers."

One of the difficult aspects of the aftermath was to realize that for the rest of the campus, life goes on as usual, said Kresch. "Some other parts of campus aren't dealing with this and they call up to ask the mundane questions, and you want to jump down their throats...they are calling for business as usual."..."The people on campus don't make the connection that residence life is dealing with all of these issues," added Sowash. "They see the president, vice president or media spokesperson and they don't always look at the people behind the scenes."

Herring echoed this sentiment. "One thing we would do better is to keep more of the staff in the loop. It would be better to keep everyone advised so if they got a call they would have updated information."

The Survivors

It was also important to look after the well being of those that had survived the fire. Food, lodging, clothing were all needs that had to be taken care of. Furthermore, the emotional state of these men was of a concern, and this is where the fraternal association can be invaluable. "We asked other fraternity members to look out for the survivors," reported Sowash.

It was also important, according to Herring, to provide ongoing counseling to the survivors. "We contacted the faculty members of the three survivors to let them know that academically there would be an impact on these students." An email was also sent out to the entire faculty asking for their understanding.

Memorial and Funeral Services

In the days following the fire, there were two memorial services. The first one was a candlelight service that was relatively spontaneous, according to Kresch. "It is part of the healing process that the community and the students need. It was driven by the campus ministers, who took

the lead." Local churches donated the candles, and a local ribbon manufacturer donated the ribbons. It started as a march that ended as a vigil at the site of the fire.

A large number of mementos, signs, and flowers were left at the site. The fire department was very sensitive to the importance of these items, and when they had to move them to get into the scene, the fire department contacted Residence Life first. All of the mementos were moved onto the campus and preserved.

When it came time for the funeral, it was apparent that many students were going to attend. Sowash was concerned about the fraternity members and friends driving out to the funerals. The university provided bus transportation, which helped immensely.

A final memorial service was planned by the families and the fraternity after the last funeral to put a closure on the incident. "This wasn't something done by the university...there were many people involved in the planning," according to Sowash. "It was more a celebration of their lives than a memorial service," added Kresch.

The Future

Where is the university going in the future?

According to Herring, this September, each fraternity and sorority will have a fire marshal that will be responsible for working with the fire department and the towns' code enforcement officer to inspect their building. Training will be provided to these fire marshals by the town. Each of the Greek houses will be required to undergo two inspections per year instead of one, which had been the norm in the past.

The university has been having a number of meetings with landlords, the town and the Greek organizations about alternative housing and private development. They are discussing the finances of sprinkler systems in the dormitories. Smoking in the individual rooms in the dormitories has been banned, as have candles.

"The focus is now on prevention," said Sowash.

Heard and Seen Elsewhere....

During the recent hearing at State College, Pennsylvania, the issue of sprinklers versus fire alarms was raised by one of the legislators. In response, Walter Wise, fire administrator for the Center Region Council of Governments, said "If the back of your coat was on fire, would you want me to just tell you about it, or would you like me to throw a glass of water on it?"

Enough said...

The July 24th issue of Engineering News-Record contained an extensive article on the issue of sprinkler regulations in dormitories and other campus housing. Ed Comeau was interviewed for this article and material from Campus Firewatch's website was used by the author.

<http://www.enr.com/news/enrbld94.asp>

An article in The News & Record newspaper, based in Piedmont Triad, NC, discussed the number of sprinkler installations in dormitories at the University of North Carolina. An interesting quote in the paper from one of the administrators... "By the time the sprinkler head would go off, everybody would be dead from smoke inhalation." If this is indeed an accurate quote, then it shows that we, as fire safety professionals, have a long way to go in educating and informing the people that make the funding decisions.

LEGISLATION

Update

Legislation

S 2100

College Fire Prevention Act

Jurisdiction

Federal

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Funding

\$100,000,000

Facilities

Dormitories, fraternities or sororities

Status

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on 2/24/00. Still in committee and no action has been taken.

Summary

Authorizes appropriations for competitive grants to help provide fire sprinkler systems in student housing and dormitories.

Authorizes the Secretary of Education to award such grants to States, private or public colleges or universities, fraternities, or sororities to assist them in providing such systems.

Requires grant recipients to provide matching funds equal to at least one-half of project costs.

Directs the Comptroller General to gather, and report to Congress, data on the number of college and university housing facilities and dormitories that have and do not have fire sprinkler systems and other forms of built-in fire protection mechanisms.

Legislation

S 2178

HR 3831

Fire Safe Dorm Act of 2000

Jurisdiction

Federal

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Funding

N/A

Facilities

Campuses nationwide

Status

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on 3/2/00. Still in committee and no action has been taken.

Summary

The objective of this bill is to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose to students and their parents the incidents of fires in dormitories, and their plans to reduce fire safety hazards in dormitories, to require the United States Fire Administration to establish fire safety standards for dormitories, and for other purposes.

Legislation**HR 4504****Higher Education Technical Amendments of 2000****Jurisdiction**

Federal

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Funding

N/A

Facilities

Campuses nationwide

Status

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on 6/13/00. Still in committee and no action has been taken.

Summary

This legislation has several amendments attached to it pertaining to campus fire safety. They include providing a description of campus fire safety features, reports on the number of fires and false alarms, and an analysis of current fire safety systems and plans for upgrading fire protection.

Legislation**Supplemental budget appropriation****Jurisdiction**

Massachusetts

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Funding

\$50,000,000

Facilities

Dormitories, state buildings only

Status

It is believed that this did not survive the

budget hearings. Campus Firewatch was not able to get confirmation of this at press time.

Summary

The governor has inserted into the supplemental budget language giving the state the authority to fund sprinkler installation in state dormitories.

Legislation**S 891****Dormitory Safety Trust Fund Act****Jurisdiction**

New Jersey

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Funding

\$90,000,000

Facilities

Dormitories, public and private
Greek Housing

Status

Governor Whitman signed this legislation into law on 7/5/00. The regulations associated with this law are now being written and will be adopted by emergency action. At press time, sources believed that they would be adopted by approximately August 16, 2000.

Summary

This legislation calls for the installation of sprinklers in dormitories and Greek housing within five years. It provides 0% interest loans for public institutions and 2% interest loans for private institutions. There is a 15-year payback period for these loans.

Legislation**HB 2458****Dormitory Automatic Sprinkler Act****Jurisdiction**

Pennsylvania

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Funding

\$100,000,000

Facilities

Dormitories

Status

A hearing was held before the House Labor Relations Committee on July 20, 2000. A third hearing may possibly be scheduled for September. The committee chairman indicated following the hearing that he is going to propose that the committee recommend that fraternities be included in the legislation. The legislature will recess for the year on November 30, 2000. Further information on this hearing can be found elsewhere in this issue of Campus Firewatch.

Summary

Representative Michael McGeehan introduced House Bill 2458, the Dormitory Automatic Sprinkler Act, on April 11, 2000. This bill calls for the installation of sprinklers in all new dormitories, and in existing dormitories within five years. It proposes the appropriation of \$100,000,000 to fund a sprinkler loan fund for low interest loans.

CAMPUS Fire Log

The following are brief summaries of incidents that have occurred in college occupancies. Unless noted otherwise, they have been taken from press accounts and have not been verified for accuracy. Several of these incidents will be profiled in future issues of Campus Firewatch.

If you have an incident that you would like to contribute for this column, please contact us at publisher@campus-firewatch.com.

June 8, 2000

Millikin University Decatur, Illinois

Campus Firewatch obtained the following information in an interview with the Decatur Fire Department.

A fire occurred in an occupied fraternity at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. The fire claimed the life of one male student.

The building where the fire occurred was a three-story wood frame structure with a brick veneer. It was about 60 to 70 years old, with a two-story addition that was built in the late 1960's. The structure had originally been built as a house and was converted into a fraternity sometime in the past.

The building was not equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

The building was equipped with single station, battery-powered smoke detectors in each of the residence rooms. These detectors were replaced every year.

There was a fire alarm system in the building that would only sound a local alarm. It was equipped with detection in the common areas and not in the individual rooms. It was reported that at the time of the fire the alarm system was functional, but the audible devices had been silenced.

At the time of the fire, there were 20 people

in the building.

It was reported that there were two means of egress throughout the structure. One was an interior stairwell that extended to the third floor. Another interior stairway extended two floors. The second means of egress on the third floor was onto an exterior deck where an exit ladder was located.

The stair that extended to the third floor was connected to a common room on the third floor, which was the area of origin for the fire. There was a door between the stairway and the common room, but it was open at the time of the fire. The door, which was a metal, fire-rated door, was not equipped with an automatic door closer.

There were four residence rooms on the third floor. Two of the rooms were immediately off the common area where the fire occurred. One of the rooms was equipped with a hollow-core door between it and the common room, while the other had a solid wood door.

At the time of the fire, there were two people in two separate rooms off the common room on the third floor. Normally, there would be five occupants living in this area.

The fire started in an upholstered chair in the common room. The cause of the fire is officially undetermined, but fire officials speculated that it might have been started by careless disposal of smoking materials. The chair was located approximately eight

feet from the room equipped with the hollow core door.

The fire extended from the chair and involved the contents in the common room, blocking any possibility of egress from the two residence rooms.

The fire was detected by a passerby, who notified the fire department. However, this person did not know the exact address. He/she pounded on the front door of the fraternity to waken the occupants, and then was able to notify the fire department of the correct address.

The occupant in the room equipped with the solid wood door was awakened when the smoke detector in his room activated. Using a cellular telephone, he contacted the fire department and was in constant contact until he was rescued by the fire fighters.

It is unclear what actions the person in the room with the hollow-core door took. He normally slept in the top bunk, and he was found out of bed, approximately six feet into the room. The door between the residence room and the common room failed during the fire, letting smoke and heat extend into the residence room. According to the fire department, the fire was limited to the common room and did not extend into the residence room where the fatality occurred.

The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

August 7, 2000

University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan

The following information was obtained through an interview by Campus Firewatch with a University of Michigan spokesperson.

A late afternoon fire in a five story dormitory caused damage to the roof, which was

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being replaced at the time of the fire. There was also water damage down into the building. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The building would normally house 900 students. It was not equipped with a sprinkler system, but was equipped with a fire alarm system with single station smoke detectors in the residence rooms.

The building was being used to house students occupying a summer camp, but there were not many students in the building at the time of the fire. A university spokesperson reported that the dormitory would be available for the fall semester. No dollar estimate was available at this time.

Another fire also occurred earlier in the day in the Chemistry Building. This fire was believed to have been started when a spark from construction work being done on the exterior of the building ignited material in the wall. The four story building was equipped with a fire alarm system and a sprinkler system. Both activated when the fire extended into a bio-physics laboratory. Damage was limited to \$50,000.

Going to Press

As we were going to press, we became aware of pending bond legislation in North Carolina that will be voted on in November.

According to Leslie Bevacqua, campaign director for North Carolinians for Educational Opportunity, the focus of the bond program is to provide funds to upgrade the buildings on all of the state and community college campuses in the state. As part of this bond program, whenever a new building is constructed, or an existing one is renovated, sprinklers would be installed as part of the project.

The portion of the bond funds to be allocated for the university system is \$2.5 billion.

More information will be available on this in future issues of Campus Firewatch.

NFPA Fall Meeting - continued from page 1

Speakers will include:

Bonnie Woodruff, the mother of one of the students killed in the 1996 Chapel Hill fraternity fire

Buddy Dewar, National Fire Sprinkler Association

Ed Comeau, Publisher of Campus Firewatch

On Monday, November 13 the event being held is Campus Fire Safety Forum II. This year, it is being co-sponsored by three organizations involved in promoting fire safety at our nation's colleges and universities:

- The National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org)
- The United States Fire Administration (www.usfa.fema.gov)
- The Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Management Association (www.safety.utoledo.edu/cshema/)

While the agenda for this program has not been finalized, it is going to include a focus on legislation that is being proposed or implemented at local, state and federal levels. The goal is to provide the attendees with a wealth of information on "how to" develop the most effective legislation and ordinances, based on the experience of others.

Another presentation will be on how NFPA's Fire Drills: Great Escape program has been adapted for use at the University of Miami in Ohio.

"With recent college fire tragedies all too present in our minds," says Meri-K Appy, vice president for public education at NFPA, "NFPA is eager to support a growing national movement to address this serious problem. The forum will provide the right opportunity for a wide range of experts and professionals to create meaningful strategic action plans."

The first forum, held at NFPA headquarters in 1999, was recognized as a valuable opportunity for fire safety professionals, campus administrators and others to exchange information. Forum II is expanding upon this exchange by including a new co-sponsor this year, the Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Management Association. CSHEMA is a division of the National Safety Council and is made up of professionals that are focused on the safety issues in the academic environment.

According to Mike Halligan, who chairs the Fire and Life Safety committee, CSHEMA is a division of the National Safety Council. The Association promotes and strengthens activities pertaining to all aspects of college and university safety, health and environmental management. It is dedicated to assisting member institutions in advancing safety, health and environmental quality in higher education and it strives to be the definitive resource on best practice for reliable and effective environmental health and safety for colleges, universities, and other educational institutions.

Membership in CSHEMA is open to any person whose activities are directly related to college or university safety programs and who are also individual members of or affiliated with an organizational member of the National Safety Council.

More information on the NFPA Fall Education Conference can be found on the NFPA web site at www.nfpa.org, or by calling 1-617-984-7310.

A copy of the final report from Forum I can be downloaded from the RESOURCES page of the Campus Firewatch web site at www.campus-firewatch.com.

Candle and Halogen Lamp Survey Results

Campus Firewatch conducted a very unscientific survey to determine what various institutions' policies are on candles and halogen lamps.

Fifty-one institutions responded to the inquiry. The following are the results.

Candles

# of Institutions	Policy
38 (75%)	Outright bans against the use and possession of candles in student residences.
6 (12%)	Candles are allowed to be used only under certain circumstances, such as with a fire watch present, or in a special location such as a student lounge with prior permission.
4 (8%)	Candles allowed as decorative items, but prohibited from being lit.
3 (6%)	No restrictions on candles.

Halogen Lamps

# of Institutions	Policy
36 (71%)	Halogen lamps are banned.
15 (29%)	Halogen lamps are permitted

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It isn't too often that we run letters sent to us. This one, however, merits being printed. It has been edited to remove references to the particular school, which isn't important. What is important is the lesson that we can all gain from this.

Last week we took my daughter to her freshmen orientation. It's a nice school, well kept, about 12K students etc. As we were touring the dorms, I noticed only about half the buildings were sprinklered.

At a parents meeting (about 600 parents) a question was raised about how many dorms were sprinklered, and why the others weren't. The person on the stage deferred to one of their safety (if you call him that) officers who had the guts to get up and say only two dorms were sprinklered, that sprinklers really aren't necessary because they only save property. He also said they have smoke alarms and that is all parents should be concerned with. He reiterated again that there is a misconception about sprinklers, they really only preserve property. If the sprinklers have to go off, its probably too late anyway!! He said they only sprinklered the high rise buildings!! (I guess if you can jump, you are ok)

Needless to say, the university is getting a letter from me. I'm going to go into your previous editions and get some background to send to the President of the Univ.

(A lot of other parents didn't buy it either as it got loud after this idiot made those statements)

Campus Firewatch contacted the university's public affairs officer and asked for his reaction to this letter. He replied that the statements that were made were probably correct.