

CAMPUS Firewatch™

JULY 2000

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BREAKING NEWS

New Jersey

As this issue of Campus Firewatch was being printed, New Jersey Governor Whitman has signed the Dormitory Fire Safety Act into law. The following is a press release from the Governor's office that was issued on July 5, 2000. Look for more information on this important legislation in an upcoming issue of Campus Firewatch.

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Aftermath

Ed Comeau, writer-tech.com

On March 19, 2000, Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, lost three fraternity brothers in an off-campus fire. This is the second time that the university has had to deal with such a tragedy. In 1994, five fraternity brothers perished in another off-campus fire.

Although these fires occurred in residential facilities that did not belong to the university, nor were they under their control, dealing with the aftermath of these tragedies fell upon the university.

Campus Firewatch spoke with Dr. Preston Herring, the vice president for student life, Linda Sowash, the director of residence life and Tom Kresch, the assistant director of residence life. Both Sowash and Kresch had been with the university when the first fire occurred in 1994, and were able to provide some valuable insight into how the two incidents differed.

"We learned a lot during the first fire," said Sowash. "However, there were also a lot of other situations over the years that had also helped us to prepare." These incidents, while not as tragic as the two fires, did provide them with the opportunity to develop some effective procedures. There had been a very detailed crisis plan in existence when the fire occurred, but it was "overly organized...and fairly inflexible, and it took time to implement," reported Herring.

The Fire

As soon as the university became aware of the March fire and the potential fatalities, two staff members from residence life, including Kresch, went directly to the fire scene. Sowash reported to the residence life office to start coordinating activities. She began calling the other fraternities and sororities to ask them when the last time was that they had seen the three missing students, in hopes that perhaps they were elsewhere. Unfortunately, her efforts were unsuccessful.

The Families

Later that morning Herring contacted the parents of the students to tell them of the fire and that their sons were missing. All three students were from nearby, and the parents came to the university quickly.

When the parents arrived on campus, they were given space within the residence life offices. "It was our experience that the families needed a place where they can gather individually, so we set up three offices with phones where they could gather and wait for news and call other family members," explained Kresch. "They didn't really want to go to

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FROM THE Editor

One of the most sweeping pieces of legislation has emerged out of New Jersey. On Wednesday, July 5, New Jersey Governor Whitman signed into law legislation that mandates that within four years all dormitories and chartered fraternities and sororities are to be equipped with sprinkler systems.

This bill provides for a \$90 million fund that institutions can draw on to assist them in installing these systems. New Jersey's efforts serve as a model for developing and moving legislation forward that will dramatically improve the level of fire safety at schools across the state.

This bill came about because of a strong partnership between a variety of organizations within the state. They came together for a common cause—the safety of students. The article by Gary Lewis in this issue describes the genesis of the New Jersey Coalition for Safe Student Housing.

We must not lose sight, however, that sprinklers in and of themselves are not the answer. Fire prevention is a complex issue. In his report *Fire Safe Student Housing—A Guide for Campus Housing Administrators*, Dr. Frederick Mowrer from the University of Maryland outlined the four components to fire safety that he coined into the acronym PODS—Prevention, Occupant Awareness, Detection, Suppression. For a complete fire safety program, all four of these components must work together to provide the safest possible environment.

We must not lose sight of the fact that if the fire does not even occur in the first place, then the detection and suppression components are not even called into play. It is critically important that we make sure that everyone involved in campus fire safety stresses the importance of prevention. It is a very simple equation:

No Fires=No Deaths

While I know that the goal of absolutely no fires is somewhat idealistic, why not set the bar high? Why not strive for this?

As it was so aptly said, not so long ago, "Some men see things as they are and ask, 'why?' I dream things that never were and ask, 'why not?'" *Robert F. Kennedy (with thanks to George Bernard Shaw).*

Why not?

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 JULY 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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UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

by Edith Curry

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is a land-, sea - and space-grant university. Created in 1915 by the U.S. Congress, UAF employs nearly 3,200 full and part time faculty and staff and has more than 8,000 students. UAF also has its own rocket launch facility at Poker Flats.

In 1989, the State Fire Marshal's office started an inspection program at that took two years and resulted in over 52 major facilities being inspected and cited for code violations.

Once the on campus inspections were completed and with deferred authority from the State Fire Marshal in hand, UAF set up an aggressive fire prevention program and comprehensive plan of correction. The University of Alaska Fairbanks' overall fire prevention program philosophy is that all accidents can be prevented and all levels of the university must be committed to and participate in achieving this ideal. At the University of Alaska Fairbanks, fire and the risks and effects of fire are being addressed by the commitment to the following four components.

Prevention. It is common knowledge that prevention is always the best and most effective cure. With that in mind, UAF emphasizes daily practices and procedures to limit the risk of occurrence and/or lessen the severity of an occurrence to all staff, students and visitors of UAF. Each member of the university has a role in preventing fires, which can be thought of in two dimensions, limiting ignition opportunities, and limiting fuel that could ignite and or increase the intensity of the fire. Prevention is the most effective method of reducing the loss and injury from fire, it is the most cost effective, and the easiest to achieve on an individual basis. This is an on going process consisting of plan reviews for all new construction and remodels, a fire and life safety inspection program and employee and student training programs.

Engineering As with all things relating to the human element and/or the natural world some occurrences of a hazardous

nature will happen. UAF is involved in a massive effort to bring its facilities up to current design and codes as well as to limit the impact of such events as fires, power outages, and earthquakes. Code compliant building designs contain features to prevent ignition opportunities, reduce fuel loads and to limit the spread of smoke and heat. Engineering also provides smoke and fire detectors, sprinkler systems, smoke dampers and ventilation systems that are effective 24 -hours a day, automatically.

Although the State of Alaska did not require the retroactive sprinkling of any buildings, UAF choose to install sprinklers in all campus residence halls (dormitories). This was completed in 1999. At this time, the University is working on installing sprinklers in all apartment units on campus. None of these units is required to be sprinkled by code.

Under the code correction program, the University has been installing fire alarm and sprinklers systems in all of the classroom and research facilities. In addition to installing sprinkler systems in all the campus residence halls, state of the art fire alarm systems were also installed. As with any other University campus, false alarms were a major problem. Ten years ago, the fire department would respond to 450-500 false alarms per year, the majority of them malicious. Last year the fire department responded to 63 false alarms with only 11 of them malicious.

The new fire alarm systems being installed in all campus facilities are self-addressable systems. Dispatch receives the alarm via a computer that gives the exact address of the activated device. This information is relayed to the responding crew.

Individuals who cause a false alarm or tamper with life safety equipment are fined a minimum of \$250. If the fire department does not know who activated the alarm then the residence hall is fined. The University Fire department falls under FLSA or the Fair Labor Standards Act and

if they break sleep time, an additional 8 hours must be paid to each firefighter on shift. Therefore, any alarm that occurs between 2 am and 4 am will result in additional charges. These additional costs will be added to the \$250. In those cases, the bill will be closer to \$900. Depending upon the actions of the individuals who were involved in causing the alarm, the University Police Dept. may also file criminal charges against them. This will result in fines beyond what is charged by the fire department.

In the past, the University also had a large number of false alarms caused by equipment malfunctions. Those systems were prioritized and the University has repaired or replaced the systems with the new "addressable" fire alarm systems. The University also hired two full time alarm technicians to maintain the fire alarm systems. Protocols have been put in place for maintenance workers or contractors that need to work in areas where there are active alarms. If workers or contractors fail to follow the protocols and activate the alarm system, they are also subject to fines.

At the start of each semester, students are advised that if they accidentally hit a detector or activate the system to call the 911-dispatch center immediately and let them know what happened. The fire department can then be downgraded. The student is instructed to wait for the Battalion Chief so that the fire department can ensure that the system has been properly reset. There is no fine for these types of events.

In our public areas, Stopper II's have been installed over the pull stations. This literally eliminated all false alarms during public events on campus

Exit or remove lives at risk from danger. At UAF life safety is, and always will be, a higher priority than property. The people of this university's community are it's most important (and expensive) asset. In the event of fire emergency, or notification

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Alaska - continued from page 3

of a fire emergency, all individuals should exit the area immediately. Evacuation to an area of safe refuge and/or building may be necessary. All of our training programs emphasize that all building occupants must exit the building. We do not want anyone to try to fight the fire. The fire department will respond and take whatever action is necessary.

The University will rely on manual suppression efforts as a very last resort to handle a fire incident. At no time shall individuals place themselves in jeopardy attempting to extinguish a fire. These efforts are to be performed only by trained personnel that are fully equipped and have sufficient resources to effectively and safely contain and then mitigate the fire incident.

The University has also been progressive in other areas. Magnetic locks were installed on the rear doors of all the residence halls to provide a higher level of safety for the students. In 1995, the University began a program to remove the majority of fire extinguishers from residence halls and classrooms buildings that were fully sprinkled and equipped with a state of the art addressable fire alarms system. Although the University would like to completely remove the fire extinguishers in certain buildings, the State Fire Marshal is not comfortable with that action. After reading the May 2000 issue of Firehouse and the article by Francis Brannigan, it appears that others are now questioning the need for fire extinguishers in fully sprinkled and alarmed buildings.

None of this progress would have been possible were it not for the team effort between the University Fire Marshal, the Director of Facilities Services and the UAF Administration. Changing codes, new research needs, limited funding and aging buildings will continue to provide a challenge to the University of Alaska Fairbanks. However, the University has the framework in place to handle these challenges.

UAF is served by a fire department located on campus. The University Fire Department has a partnership with the Fairbanks North Star Borough and serves a very large off campus fire district that includes a major industrial area, an international airport, major highways, rivers, businesses and residential community. The University Fire Department is unique in that it has 10 career staff members, but all of the firefighters are full time students. The students work 24 on and 48 off. The department operates three ALS ambulances, three engines, two ladders including a 135' and a rescue boat. The students are well versed in all aspects of emergency services operations and the department has earned an ISO Class 2.

Curry is currently the fire marshal for the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the director of codes and safety as well as an assistant fire chief with the university fire dept. She has been in the fire service for over 20 years and is a former deputy state fire marshal. She has been an adjunct instructor in the fire science program for over 17 years and is the chief of one of Alaska's hazardous materials regional response teams. She is also a volunteer assistant chief with a local combination department where she oversees training and EMS. She can be reached at 1-907-474-7681, or via email at fneic@uaf.edu.



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

the site, but they did want to be close. It allowed them to get information from residence life."

Arrangements were also made for rooms with a local hotel under the university's name. The hotel worked closely with the university to ensure that the families were sheltered, and all calls were screened.

Another lesson that was learned following the 1994 fire, according to Herring, was to have one person responsible for working with the families. Herring assumed that role and said that it "provided natural continuity, having one person from whom they knew they could get information from."

The Media

Effective communication was one of the critical components to managing this incident, from Sowash's point of view.

"In the first fire, the 6:00 news in Scranton and Philadelphia reported that a fire had occurred in off-campus student housing," and didn't provide many more details, said Sowash. "The phones lit up and a lot of parents were calling all over the place. This time, a specific location (of the fire) was given, which lessened the anxiety of the parents. By identifying the address, it cut down on the number of calls."

Dealing with the press is a key factor, too, said Sowash. While she was not directly responsible for providing information to the media, she worked closely with the university's communications director. "The other thing that helps with the media," explained Sowash, "is that when you focus them on a location, they focus on that and plan their day. That directs them and helps them to keep the story active, instead of them having to look for a story."

There were essentially two command posts within the university during the incident. One of them dealt with the press and was located at one end of campus, while the other was located at residence life. The latter one was more anonymous and was a great benefit to helping manage the incident.

Since Bloomsburg is near several large media outlets, there were a number of reporters, television stations and satellite trucks on site for many days. The university president made a point of explaining to the students that the media has a job to do and that they should not target their anger towards them. Kresch and another staff member were on the scene to help diffuse any situations that arose because of the media interacting with the students.

The university made an effort to ensure that the media had the information they needed to do their job. For example, when asked if they were excluded from the campus-wide meeting that was held with all of the students, Sowash replied with "They were wherever we were." The only exception was there was no live coverage of the memorial service allowed, said Herring.

The first press conference was scheduled for the afternoon of the fire. Both university and town officials participated in the conference. Herring said, "We learned from the 1994 fire that because it occurred off-campus, people wanted to hear from both the university and the town."

The university's communication staff compiled background information for the press conference. This included information such as details about the fraternity, who lived there, the past conduct record of the fraternity, the record of code violations, how they responded to the 1994 fire, names of the students who died in the 1994 fire and other pertinent information.

The Internet was also used as a communications tool with the media. "We used the web as a media center," according to Herring. They put the press releases, photographs of the victims, biographical information and details on the funeral arrangements on the university's web site.

This article will be continued in the August issue of Campus Firewatch.

Upcoming Events

There are two upcoming events that you should put on your calendar.

Campus Fire Safety Forum II

Orlando, Florida
Monday, November 13

This is being held in conjunction with the NFPA Education Section's session on campus fire safety on Sunday, November 12 at the NFPA Fall Education Conference. The agenda for Forum II is being developed at this time, and information will be included in future issues of Campus Firewatch.

IAFC Campus Fire Chief's Forum

Dallas, Texas
Sunday, August 27

This is an invaluable opportunity for fire chiefs from across the country to gather together and share information on providing a fire-safe campus environment. For more information contact Chief Larry Donner, Boulder Fire Department, at 303-441-3357 or via email at donnerl@ci.boulder.co.us.

Breaking News - continued from page 1

Office of the Governor News Release

Governor Signs Legislation Mandating Automatic Sprinklers in Dorm Rooms Statewide Responding to January's Tragic Dormitory Fire at Seton Hall University

Governor Christie Whitman today signed a bill into law at Seton Hall University in South Orange to require the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in all dormitory rooms in public and private colleges, universities and boarding schools statewide.

Remembering the January 19th fire that took the lives of three Seton Hall freshmen, while injuring another 58 students and four public safety officers, Gov. Whitman said, "Today, we try in our own way, to bring some meaning to this tragedy, to ensure that some good can come out of this terrible event. By making sure that something like this can never happen again, we honor the memory of those who died and the suffering of those who were injured."

"I know that for the families and friends of the victims, nothing we can do can heal the pain or fill the empty hole in their hearts," continued the Governor. "But I hope that knowing that their loss will help prevent a similar loss will give those who knew and loved Frank, John and Aaron a measure of comfort and peace."

The bill, S-891, is called the Dormitory Safety Trust Fund Act; it specifically creates a requirement for the owners of buildings used as dor-

mitories for students at public or private schools or at public and private institutions of higher education to install automatic fire suppression systems. The law defines dormitories as buildings with rooms used as residences or overnight sleeping for individuals or groups, and includes fraternity or sorority houses - whether or not the buildings are owned by an educational institution.

"The effectiveness of automatic sprinkler systems has been demonstrated for more than 100 years," said Gov. Whitman. "By requiring their installation in all residential buildings on every New Jersey campus, we are ensuring that our students will have a safe place in which to live, study and learn."

Gov. Whitman also thanked the Legislature and the leadership of New Jersey's higher education community for working together to provide this protection for the state's residential students. The Governor acknowledged that while this measure was a big undertaking, it is more than worth it for the good it will do and the lives it will save.

The bill's Senate sponsors were Senators Kosco (R-Bergen), Girgenti (D-Passaic), Matheussen (R-Camden/ Gloucester), Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Martin (R-Essex/ Morris/Passaic). The bill's Assembly sponsors were Assembly Members Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic), Wisniewski (D-Middlesex), Crecco (R-Essex/Passaic), Augustine (R-Middlesex/ Morris/Somerset/Union), Stanley (D-Essex), O'Toole (R-Essex/Union), Corodemus (R-Monmouth), Asselta (R-Cape May/

Atlantic/Cumberland), Green (D-Middlesex/ Somerset/Union) and Russo (R-Bergen/Passaic).

Each entity, which owns a dormitory, is required to file within 120 days (of enactment) a sprinkler installation plan, including costs and projected completion dates, with the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs. The plan must also stipulate that installation be completed in four years.

Also, the legislation says that sprinkler installation projects, which were begun up to 12 months before the bill's effective date, are eligible to be included in the plan; the cost of the installation is eligible to be included in any loan request.

Under the law, the Commissioner of Community Affairs may extend timeframes for installation, if the time-frame would pose an unreasonable hardship or the installation is impossible for reasons outside of the entity's control.

The bill establishes the Dormitory Safety Trust Fund within the educational facilities authority (EFA), which will be used to provide loans to the schools to install the sprinkler systems: no-interest loans to public or private institutions of higher education and two percent loans to secondary schools, military and boarding schools, or other such places. The State Treasurer is required to establish a program to provide the loans.

Lastly, the bill amends a section of the Uniform Fire Safety Act to provide that the DCA may establish fees and issue penalties against the State, its agency, department or

instrumentality, or an interstate agency to obtain compliance with the act. As a result, DCA can issue fees against public colleges and universities.

Massachusetts

In Massachusetts, the Governor filed a supplemental budget that incorporates funding for sprinklers in dormitories statewide. The current state budget ran out at the end of June, and at this point an interim budget has been passed to fund state operations. The following is the press release from the Governor's office. According to sources, this legislation provides the Division of Capital Asset Maintenance and Management with the authority to obtain funding. Campus Firewatch will keep track of this effort in upcoming issues.

CELLUCCI, SWIFT MAKE FIRE SAFETY A PRIORITY ON CAMPUS

Governor Paul Cellucci and Lieutenant Governor Jane Swift today announced a plan to protect students at public colleges and universities by committing to install fire sprinklers in dormitories constructed before building codes required the fire suppression systems. Cellucci and Swift have committed to investing \$50 million over four years to ensure students and property are protected.

"The recent string of dormitory fires and loss of life in Massachusetts and across the nation reminds us that we must be vigilant in ensuring the safety of students at our colleges and universities," Cellucci said.

"While our children seek a quality

education and prepare for promising careers, we must make sure their living quarters are safe and that tragedy is avoided."

"While our current building codes require the installation of fire sprinklers in new dormitories, we must address those dormitories built prior to the new rules," Swift said. "The Commonwealth will install the sprinklers and shoulder the cost so we can continue to keep our colleges and universities affordable to all students."

At Massachusetts 29 state colleges and universities, nearly three-quarters of the dormitories lack fire sprinklers and are still considered to meet the building code. Many dormitories were not required to have sprinklers installed at the time they were originally constructed.

"In 1999, there were 150 fires in dormitories in Massachusetts," said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan. "Any one them could have been like the recent Seton Hall fire in New Jersey that killed three students. This initiative is a major step toward preventing such tragedies from occurring here in the Commonwealth."

"The fire service of Massachusetts is extremely pleased with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's initiative. Dormitory fires pose a great potential for loss of life. We must protect our investment in our own future, by protecting students life safety while they are in our care at our colleges and universities," said Devens Fire Chief Thomas E. Garrity, president of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts.

Cellucci and Swift filed legislation to provide the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance the authority to fund fire sprinkler installation in state dormitories. The buildings fall under the authority of the State College and University of Massachusetts Building Authorities, which would have to raise student fees to finance the safety measures.

While smoke alarms give people early warning of fire, sprinkler systems can help control the fire and save the life of a person unable to escape.

The following letter was sent to all members of the United States Senate, asking them to support Senate Bill 2100, the College Fire Prevention Act. Campus Firewatch encourages you to contact your senator (www.senate.gov) and ask that they support this important legislation.

June 13, 2000

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to ask that you join us in cosponsoring S. 2100, the College Fire Prevention Act. If enacted, this bi-partisan legislation would provide federal grants for the installation of fire sprinkler systems in college and university dormitories and fraternity and sorority houses. These entities would be required to produce matching funds equal to one-half of the cost.

We became interested in this legislation due to the tragic fire that occurred at a Seton Hall University dormitory on January 19th of this year. Sadly, three freshman died. Fifty-four students, two South Orange firefighters and two South Orange police officers were injured. Unfortunately, the Seton Hall fire was not the first of its kind. And it reminded many people in North Carolina of a deadly fire that occurred in a fraternity house on Mother's Day and Graduation Day at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1996. This fire killed five college juniors and injured three others. Neither the Seton Hall dormitory nor the Chapel Hill fraternity house was equipped with a sprinkler system.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that annually there are approximately 1,800 documented fires in college dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses with a yearly average of 69 injuries and \$8.1 million in property damage.

According to the Department of Education, a record number of students are enrolled in colleges and universities. Approximately 14.9 million students enrolled for the 1999 fall semester, a 10 percent increase over the past decade. An increase in the number of fire-related emergencies at colleges and universities has accompanied the surge in enrollment. The number one cause of these fires is arson or suspected arson. The second leading cause of college building fires is cooking, while the third leading cause is smoking. We have attached a summary report detailing fatal college/university dormitory and fraternity/sorority house fires reported to U.S. fire departments since 1973. Also attached is a list of fire marshals and university administrators who support this legislation.

Sprinklers save lives. And our measure could provide the boost needed to install sprinklers in many colleges and universities that otherwise could not afford them. For example, in North Carolina it has been estimated that the cost to install sprinklers in the state's public college and university dorms is \$57.5 million. Given how much it is going to cost North Carolina, we think it's clear that the \$100 million that this measure authorizes is just a drop in the bucket. But our hope is that by providing this small incentive we can encourage more colleges to institute a comprehensive review of their dorm's fire safety and to install sprinklers. All they need is a helping hand. With this modest effort, we can help prevent the needless and tragic loss of young lives.

This bill authorizes \$100 million for this matching program with local entities. We urge you to join us in cosponsoring this important bi-partisan legislation. If you would like to do so, or have any questions about S. 2100, please contact Crystal Bennett at 4-3154. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Senator John Edwards

Senator Frank Lautenberg

Senator Robert Torricelli

Senator Spencer Abraham

COLLEGE 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.

November 4, 1999

University of Iowa
Ames, Iowa

Four University of Iowa students were left homeless after a fire in their home. The fire, which occurred at approximately 3:48 a.m., started in a fireplace and extended into the structure. Two residents were at home at the time of the fire, which caused about \$25,000 in damage.

April 10, 2000 (Update)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA

Officials have ruled the fire that occurred on April 10, 2000, that killed a female student was caused by "self-inflicted thermal burns," according to her death certificate. The student died on April 14, 2000. The fire occurred in her dormitory room at MIT.

April 27, 2000

Catholic University of America
Washington, DC

NOTE: This information was provided by Louis Alar from CUA

A fire occurred at The Catholic University of America's (CUA) Spellman Hall on April 27,

2000 at 1050 hrs. A maintenance worker on a routine repair job noticed smoke coming from a third floor dormitory room. He notified authorities of the fire via a portable radio. The fire alarm was activated by an RA as she was evacuating the building. Approximately 100 students were evacuated at the time of the fire. No injuries were reported.

The 1971 five-story dormitory houses a maximum of 275 students. It is equipped with a fire alarm system that is monitored 24 hours a day by the CUA Department of Public Safety. There are no sprinklers or standpipes in the facility.

The fire was contained to the room of origin by the District of Columbia Fire Department. The interior of the room and contents suffered heavy damage from the heat, soot and smoke. The fourth and fifth floor received moderate smoke damage while the second floor received minor water damage.

The occupant of the room stated that the only appliance she used before leaving the room was a hair dryer. She also stated that she was not sure if she left the hair dryer on the bed or dresser. Based on the available information from interviews and a thorough investigation on the scene; the District of Columbia Fire Department believes that the most likely cause of this fire was bedding material accidentally ignited by a hot electrical appliance (hair dryer).

June 8, 2000

Columbia University
New York, NY

A fire occurred at the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. The fire was located on the top (fifth) floor of the building and occurred at 4:45 p.m. School officials said that the fire was caused by hot work being done in the area of origin. The initial damage estimate was \$15,000-\$20,000.

June 8, 2000

Millikin University
Decatur, IL

The following information was obtained from news stories and an interview with the Decatur Fire Department by Campus Firewatch.

A fire in an off-campus fraternity killed one male student. There were 21 people in side of the Kappa Sigma fraternity building when the fire broke out at 4:21 a.m.

The building had been built in 1927 and was four stories (three floors plus an attic). The fire occurred in the third floor commons area. There were two people on the floor where the fire occurred, and it trapped both of them in their rooms. One was able to call out on a cellular telephone, and the operator kept him on the line until the fire department was able to rescue him. The other person died. The fire was limited to the commons area with extensive smoke damage.

The building was not equipped with a sprinkler system. Initial reports are that there were hardwired smoke detectors in the corridors with single station smoke detectors in the individual rooms. According to press reports, this building had had a fire on March 27, 1986 that caused heavy damage. That fire had been started by an electric blanket.

Fire Life Safety Projects

As a service to our readers, we are going to start compiling information on fire protection work being carried out at various institutions. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but instead to serve as a guide to what work is being done.

If you have any information that you would like to contribute, please contact us at support@campus-firewatch.com

Where	What	Cost	Timeframe	Notes
University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA	Installation of sprinklers in 11 residence halls, which encompasses 5,400 beds	\$15 million Being paid for out of the capital operating budget.	Five years	
Boston College Chestnut Hill, MA	Installation of sprinklers in six dormitories.	Unknown	Summer, 2000	
Pennsylvania Higher Education	Installation of sprinklers at all 14 campuses. 147 residence halls, 33,000 students.	\$50 million	Five years	
Penn State University	In the planning stage for the installation of sprinklers in 46 out of 47 residence halls	Unknown at this time.	None at this time. Planning stage only	
Yale University New Haven, CT	100% sprinkler and standpipe installation in all sleeping/dormitory areas in 26 buildings	Unknown	Began in August 1989. Every building completed except Saybrook College which is 80% complete and will be 100% completed by Summer 01.	
University of Cincinnati	Installation of sprinkler systems in two 12-story, residential high-rises	Unknown	To be completed within two years	These are the last two residential occupancies to be sprinklered
MIT	MIT has an extensive Fire Safety Systems Renewal Project underway to address fire detection, fire suppression, and fire/smoke management in student living quarters. Over 92% of the residence halls are currently protected with automatic sprinkler systems.	\$35 million	Next several years	This project will assure that the complete life/property protection systems are latest technology with robust infrastructure support (i.e. new fiber optic alarm systems, newer technology for the central station, improved water supply, etc). This project was initiated over a year ago and will continue for the next several years for residential life buildings and then continue to academic and other facilities.
Fairfield University	Finishing a three-year plan on sprinkling and installing new addressable fire alarm systems in resident halls. After this current summer, all but two dorms will be sprinkled.	Estimation cost have been very close to the national norm of \$2.50 to \$2.75 a square foot for retrofitting of sprinklers.	See the "What" column	Fairfield is just under three million square feet of space with 250,000 of this space coming on line within 18 months. We have taken a very proactive approach to fire /safety. Addressable smoke heads with individual sounder bases have been installed in every student room that has been remodeled. Also all dorms have gone through a complete code compliant review with changes being made as renovations take place (fire doors, door closures, windows, wall construction, fire stopping, travel distances, etc.). Next summer the last of our Townhouse, apartments, should be sprinklered with 13d systems. Fairfield also has its own certified Fire Marshal's office.

RESOURCES & Organizations

This column provides you with a list of resources and organizations that can assist you in your mission of developing a fire-safe college community. Each issue will focus on a different area such as Greek, risk management, fire service organizations, and more. If you have any organizations or resources that you feel should be included, please forward them to us at publisher@campus-firewatch.com

The National Fire Protection Association

There are a number of different resources available to the campus fire safety professional that we are going to focus on in each issue. This month we are going to provide a brief snapshot of the National Fire Protection Association.

NFPA has recently started to move more of its material onto their web site. Some of this material includes:

- In addition to being able to purchase all of their products online, you can now download the codes and standards, for a fee, through the online catalog.
- Fire investigations reports and summaries, and One-Stop Data Shop reports are also available online (some for free), although it is not a complete collection.
- Several of their section newsletters are available online
- An interesting feature such as "Fire Fact a Week"
- The index from NFPA Journal
- Selected articles from NFPA Journal

Within NFPA, there are specific areas that can provide detailed information or assistance to the fire safety professional.

Fire Investigations

NFPA's fire investigations department provides the "real world" focus on the success and failures of fire protection. Fire Investigations focuses on "technically significant" incidents

in order to provide the best lessons learned possible for the fire protection community. Included among these incidents are several dormitory fires, specifically Chapel Hill, Franklin and Berkley.

Summaries of many of the reports are available, online, at the NFPA web site. Copies of the reports can be purchased either through the NFPA online catalog, or from the Charles S. Morgan library.

1-617-984-7263 (tel)
investigations@nfpa.org

Library

The Charles S. Morgan library at NFPA is one of the most comprehensive collections of literature relating to fire protection in the world. This collection has over 10,000 copies of books and reports available. The staff is extremely knowledgeable and is able to provide a great deal of support and assistance. They are a research library, and not a lending library, so material cannot be checked out. However, they do provide a great deal of research support. Some of their online support includes access to the card catalog and bibliographies on specific topics.

1-617-984-7445 (tel)
library@nfpa.org

Statistical Data

NFPA collects a great deal of statistical information on a wide variety of subjects. The One-Stop Data Shop is your connection to this

information. They have reports on topics ranging from torch fires to the one that is of most interest to our readers- "School, College, and University Dormitories, and Fraternity and Sorority House Fires."

Some of the reports are available online, free of charge, while others can be purchased directly from the Data Shop. In addition to their standard reports, they will also prepare custom reports focusing on specific issues of interest to a particular client.

You can download a listing of available reports from the NFPA web site.

1-617-984-7450 (tel)
osds@nfpa.org

Public Education

NFPA's Public Education Division provides the material and support for fire prevention efforts. Some of their programs include Fire Prevention Week, Risk Watch® and the Center for High Risk Outreach, among others. Online resources include public service announcements and the complete Fire Prevention Week media kit.

1-617-984-7285 (tel)
education@nfpa.org

Regional Operations

NFPA has six regional offices that serve to assist with issues relating to NFPA and to support NFPA code adoption. NFPA also maintains an office in Washington, DC, to work on federal legislative issues, as well as a representative for the Asia/Pacific region. A listing of the regional managers can be found on the NFPA web site.

For general inquiries and assistance, the following is the contact information for NFPA:

NFPA
One Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269 USA 1-617-770-3000 (tel)
webmaster@nfpa.org
www.nfpa.org

LEGISLATION

Update

LEGISLATION

S2100
College Fire Prevention Act

Jurisdiction

Federal

Sponsor

Sen. John Edwards (D-NC)
United States Senate
225 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3154
senator@edwards.senate.gov

Cosponsors

Senator Spencer Abraham (R-MI)
United States Senate
329 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4822
Fax: (202) 224-8834
michigan@abraham.senate.gov
<http://www.senate.gov/~abraham/>

Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT)
448 Russell Office Bldg.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2823 (tel)
(202) 224-1083 (fax)
Senator@dodd.senate.gov
<http://www.senate.gov/~dodd/>

Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL)
364 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2152 (tel)
(202) 228-0400 (fax)
dick@durbin.senate.gov
<http://www.senate.gov/~durbin/>

Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
United States Senate
506 Senate Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4744 (tel)
(202) 224-9707 (fax)
:frank_lautenberg@lautenberg.senate.gov
<http://www.senate.gov/~lautenberg/>

Senator Robert Toricelli (D-NJ)
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3224 (tel)
(202) 224-8567 (fax)
senatortoricelli@toricelli.senate.gov

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 on it. According to sources, there are 13 appropriations bills before the senate, which is delaying any further action on pending legislation.

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

Sponsors

Senator Frank Lautenberg
United States Senate
506 Senate Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4744 (tel)
(202) 224-9707 (fax)
frank_lautenberg@lautenberg.senate.gov
<http://www.senate.gov/~lautenberg/>
<http://www.senate.gov/~toricelli/>

Representative Carolyn Maloney
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7944 (tel)
(202) 225-4709 (fax)
rep.carolyn.maloney@mail.house.gov
<http://www.house.gov/maloney/>

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 on it. According to sources, there are 13 appropriations bills before the senate, which is delaying any further action on pending legislation.

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

Sponsors

Representative Buck McKeon
2242 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C. 20515
(202) 225-1956 (tel)
(202) 226-0683 (fax)
tellbuck@mail.house.gov
<http://www.house.gov/mckeon/>

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 on it. According to sources, there are 13 appropriations bills before the senate, which is delaying any further action on pending legislation.

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

Sponsors

Governor Paul Cellucci
State House
Office of the Governor
Room 360
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 727-6250 (tel)
(617) 727-9725 (fax)
Goffice@state.ma.us

Funding

\$50,000,000

Facilities

Dormitories, state buildings only

Status

The budget is currently in conference to work out the differences. The present budget runs out on July 1, 2000. An interim budget was passed on 6/28/00.

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

Sponsors

Senator John A. Girgenti
507 Lafayette Ave.
Hawthorne, NJ 07506
(973)-427-1229
SenGirgenti@njleg.state.nj.us
<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/html/girgent.htm>

Senator Louis F. Kosco
441 Market Street
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663
(201)-712-1221
<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/html/kosco.htm>

Assemblyman John V. Kelly
371 Franklin Ave.
2nd Fl.
Nutley, NJ 07110
(973) 667-6123
asmkelly@njleg.state.nj.us
<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/html/kelly.htm>

Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski
3145 Bordentown Ave.
Suite B
Parlin, NJ 08859
(732) 316-1885
AsmWisniewski@njleg.state.nj.us
<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/html/wisnew.htm>

Governor Christine Todd Whitman
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 292-6000
www.state.nj.us/governor/contact.htm

Funding

\$90,000,000

Facilities

Dormitories, public and private

Greek Housing

Status

Governor Whitman signed this legislation into law on 7/5/00.

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 pay-back period for these loans.

LEGISLATION

HB 2458
Dormitory Automatic Sprinkler Act

Jurisdiction

Pennsylvania

Sponsors

Representative Michael McGeehan
221B South Office
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 772-4029 (tel)
mcgeehan@pahouse.net
www.pahouse.net/McGeehan/index.htm

Funding

\$100,000,000

Facilities

Dormitories

Status

Another hearing on this legislation is to be held this summer. Legislature is in recess until September 25, 2000.

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.

New Jersey Coalition for Safe Student Housing

by Gary Lewis

Following the tragic, preventable fire at Seton Hall University last January, representatives of the New Jersey Fire Prevention & Protection Association, representing fire officials and inspectors statewide, and Sprinkler Fitters' and Apprentices' Local Union #696 initiated discussions surrounding what might be done to prevent such a needless loss of life in the future. Spurred in part by press reports after the fire which included statements by the Governor that she would "look closely" at legislation requiring automatic sprinkler systems in dormitories, a coalition was formed comprised of all of the major fire service organizations within the state, sprinkler installer unions, contractors and other construction labor organizations. The group settled upon the name "Coalition for Safe Student Housing".

The Coalition set up a steering committee and developed an action plan and budget with an objective of mandatory retrofit sprinkler legislation.

Statewide outreach was done to all state, regional and local fire service and labor organizations, from which more than 1.5 million registered voters and their families were enrolled. A lobbyist was retained, as well as an advertising agency, and part-time staff assigned to coordinate communications and information distribution. Meetings with the Senate President and Assembly Speaker were arranged, which ultimately were very productive in gaining passage of the legislation.

An advertising campaign was developed, including full-page ad placement in the Star-Ledger, the largest New Jersey newspaper. Five thousand posters were printed which have been distributed by the fire service throughout the state to be placed in high profile public locations, and a number of smaller, more targeted ads were put together and reproduced for distribution to the Legislature. The steering committee, comprised of the Fire Prevention & Protection Association, Locals 696 and 669, the Sprinkler Industry Promotion Fund and the National Fire Sprinkler Association, met a number of times to discuss progress, planning and strategy. Representatives of all groups appeared at many Senate and Assembly hearings to testify and met with the Governor's staff to help craft the final bill version.

The final bill passed the Senate 39-0 on Tuesday, 6/27 and the Assembly is expected to vote on it on Thursday (6/29). The governor has promised to sign the bill when it reaches her desk.

This venture has been a textbook example of the fire service and private industry working together to achieve a mutual goal, and should serve as a model for other states. The Association and other members of the Coalition have expressed a mutual desire to continue forward together even after passage of the legislation to do even more to enhance life safety in buildings.

Gary Lewis is the chief inspector for the City of Summit, New Jersey. He can be reached at 1-908- 273-6408 or via e-mail at glewis@cityofsummit.org.