

Living With Fire[©]

Campus Incidents 2000

Information on the following incidents was compiled through media sources. The information was not independently verified.

Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
1/14/00	University of Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Alabama		X					It was believed that a student set fire to his dormitory room as part of an unsuccessful suicide attempt. The fire was limited to the room of origin. The student was treated for smoke inhalation.
1/18/00	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ		X					<i>NOTE: The precise date of this incident is unknown. The story was filed on 1/18/00.</i> Over the winter break, the Rutgers College Counseling Center and a neighboring fraternity house, Sigma Alpha Mu, were damaged by fire. The fraternity was burned down, and the counseling center had to be demolished because of the damage.
1/19/00	Seton Hall	East Orange, NJ	3	X					On Wednesday, January 19, 2000, a fire occurred at approximately 4:30 a.m. in a common area on the third floor of Boland Hall at Seton Hall University.
1/22/00	Heidelberg College	Tiffin, OH		X					A fire on the top floor of a three-story dormitory forced the evacuation of 63 students. The 93-year-old building suffered significant water damage from fire fighting operations.

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1/24/00	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI		X					A room was damaged on the sixth floor of Mary Markley residence hall. A university spokesperson attributed the cause of the fire to an "electrical situation."
2/2/00	St. Michael's College	Colchester, VT		X					A fire at 11:18 a.m. in a garbage can forced the evacuation of Ryan Hall. The fire was extinguished with a fire extinguisher.
2/5/00	Clemson University	Clemson, SC		X					<p>At approximately 6:30 a.m., a fire was detected on the fourth floor of a six-story dormitory at Clemson University. The cause of the fire was determined to be an unattended candle. Use of candles in the dormitories is against university policy.</p> <p>According to an interview by Campus Firewatch with the Clemson fire marshal, Chris Caracciolo, they have an aggressive program in place for sprinklering dormitories. They currently have 19 dormitories, seven of which are completely sprinklered. The remainder are equipped with partial sprinklers that are being upgraded to full sprinkler systems.</p>

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2/7/00	University of Kentucky	Lexington, KY				X			<p>A fire that was attributed to an unattended space heater damaged a fraternity house. A fire that was believed to have been started by an unattended space heater damaged the second and third floors of the Sigma Pi house. In press reports, one fraternity member reported that they all had space heaters because the building was too cold.</p> <p>The fire came a week after another fraternity, Sigma Chi, was evicted because of fire-safety violations.</p>
2/11/00	Atlantic Union College	Lancaster, MA			X				<p>A fire in a three-story, wood frame, dormitory completely destroyed the building. The building had 13 apartments, 11 of which were occupied by students and their families. A university official reported that there were about 20 to 25 people living in the building.</p> <p>In an interview with college officials by Campus Firewatch, they reported that the fire started in an apartment on the first floor. The resident was cooking, and the grease ignited. They suppressed it with fire extinguishers, and since they thought the fire was out, did not call the fire department. However, the fire had already</p>

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									<p>extended into the walls around the stove and then it spread vertically through the building.</p> <p>According to news reports, one of the third floor residents went downstairs, saw the fire, went back up to his apartment and returned with a fire extinguisher to fight the fire. He then tried to get back up to his apartment to retrieve some personal belongings, but was unable to do so because of the fire.</p>
2/6/00	Southern Illinois University	Carbondale, IL		X					<p>An unattended candle set an SIU dormitory room on fire. The extent of the damage is unknown at this time. According to press reports, there were 103 false alarms last semester with at least 22 of them deliberate activations.</p> <p>Students were slow in reacting because of the number of false alarms, it was reported in the press.</p> <p>It was also reported that the university does not have a policy against candles.</p>

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2/9/00	Washington State University	Pullman, WA		X					A fire broke out on Wednesday afternoon, at about 3:30 p.m., in a room on the 13 th floor of a high rise dormitory. The fire was suppressed by the operation of a sprinkler head. The cause of the fire, according to press reports, was electrical. There were no reports of any injuries or fatalities.
2/19/00	Washington State University	Pullman, WA				X			<p>A fire occurred at an off-campus fraternity. According to an interview by Campus Firewatch with Fire Prevention Officer Dragoo from the Pullman Fire Department, the cause of the fire was determined to be a candle that was ignited when a sleeping occupant tossed over a blanket on top of it. The three occupants in the room woke up and found the blanket and the back of the couch on fire. They were able to stomp out the fire on the blanket, but were unable to extinguish the couch.</p> <p>The building was a three-story structure. One portion was constructed in 1938, and an addition was added in 1968. The building was equipped with a fire alarm system that automatically transmitted a signal to a monitoring company. The building was not equipped with an automatic fire</p>

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									<p>sprinkler system.</p> <p>The fire occurred on the top floor of the new addition.</p> <p>For up to an hour after the fire, occupants were being removed from the building. One occupant was found bound in a bedroom. Another was removed a half-hour later while attempting to silence the fire alarm system because he wanted to go back to bed.</p> <p>Just minutes before this fire, the fire department had responded to another fraternity where a candle had started a fire. Fortunately, the occupants were able to extinguish this fire before any significant damage could be done.</p> <p>Dragoo reported that there is a significant problem with false alarms in the off-campus fraternities. He stated that there had been 259 false alarms in these buildings.</p>
2/21/00	University of Virginia	Charlottesville, VA		X					<p>A student was arrested for setting a bulletin board on fire at 2:00 a.m. The fire activated the building fire alarm system.</p>

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2/23/00	Washington State University	Pullman, WA			X				A fire damaged an off-campus apartment occupied by students. All of the residents in the apartment building were students at Washington State University. This is the second fire in two years in the same building. The previous fire had been started when the residents put boxes on top of the stove and then called the utility company to turn on the electricity. The cause of this fire had not been determined at the time of the report.
3/2/00	Brigham Young University	Provo, UT					X		A fire in a laboratory was extinguished by the sprinkler system. A gel test on a new plastic material was being done in the room where the fire occurred, although it is not clear from press reports if this was the cause of the fire.
3/3/00	University of Toledo	Toledo, OH		X					A series of arson fires since February 17, 2000, had occurred in Parks Tower residence hall. These fires followed 3 arson fires that had occurred between December 11 and 15, 1999, on the 14 th floor of the high-rise. The building is unsprinklered.

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3/7/00	University of Michigan	Minneapolis, MN					X		A fire in an art building at the University of Michigan at 9:00 p.m. started in a locker containing oily rags and linseed oil. A student noticed the fire, activated a manual pull station, but the system failed to activate. Students attempted to unsuccessfully extinguish the fire by aiming fire extinguishers through the locker vents. One student donned a respirator that she uses for art projects.
3/7/00	Ohio University	Athens, OH		X					<p>A cigarette that was discarded into a trashcan started a fire in Bromley Hall dormitory. The trashcan's contents were ignited, which in turn ignited the bed. The occupant was not in the room when the fire broke out.</p> <p>An individual that heard the room's smoke detector notified the fire department at 12:30 p.m. A maintenance worker also heard the smoke detector, entered the fifth floor room and then activated a manual pull station. The fire department was already enroute at this point in time.</p>

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3/8/00	Pennsylvania State University	State College, PA				X			The Chi Phi fraternity was the site of a fire at 11:30 p.m. The fire, which was contained to a bedroom on the second floor, was determined to be related to "a variety of electrical appliances at the point of origin. Numerous extension cords, power strips and appliances were utilized throughout the room."
3/10/00	Michigan State University	East Lansing, MI		X					<p>A candle started a fire in a resident assistant's room. The occupant had lit the candle while praying, and then looked up and saw a stereo on fire. The fire damaged the stereo, a mattress and the wall, and the remainder of the room suffered smoke damage.</p> <p>One of the building residents, when interviewed about burning a candle or incense, said that she "usually blows it out if I'm leaving the room."</p>
3/15/00	Western Michigan University	Kalamazoo, MI		X					A fire at 1:30 a.m. on the first floor of Hoekje Hall gutted the room. Approximately 300 students had to be evacuated from the four-story building.

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3/18/00	Chipola Junior College	Marianna, FL						X	A male student was charged with attempted arson. He is accused of pouring gasoline around the school buildings and shrubs and threatening to set them on fire.
3/19/00	Bloomsburg University	Bloomsburg, PA	3			X			<p>A fire in an off-campus fraternity killed three occupants. This fire occurred in a two story, wood frame building that was not equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system. There were six residents in the building at the time of the fire. Two were able to escape by jumping from upper story windows.</p> <p>This is the second fire in a fraternity that occurred in Bloomsburg. A fire in 1994 killed five students at another fraternity. Following this fire, a special ordinance was enacted that addressed off-campus housing. An inspector was hired who was responsible for enforcing this ordinance.</p>
3/24/00	Boston College	Newton, MA		X					An electrical fire damaged the north wing of a three-story dormitory. The fire occurred at 5:17 a.m., and forced the evacuation of 37 students. According to a university spokesperson, the damage was "significant." A number of students

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									<p>had to be rescued over ladders. Two students had fled to a sharply pitched roof, and had to also be rescued by ladders.</p> <p>The building was a three-story structure that housed freshman students. It was divided into three sections-A, B and C. The fire occurred in a room on the third floor of the "C" section. The building was built in 1971 and was not required to have sprinklers. However, according to the spokesperson, the dormitory was scheduled to be equipped with sprinklers by June. The building also did not have a standpipe system.</p> <p>A spokesperson for the Newton Fire Department told Campus Firewatch that the cause of the fire was electrical. There were three power strips connected together that, in turn, were plugged into a wall socket. There were 19 appliances, such as computers, a microwave and a refrigerator, that were plugged into the three power strips. The origin of the fire was in the vicinity of a mass of wires that were located behind a pile of books and papers. The fire</p>

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									<p>department determined that one, or more, of the wires' insulation failed, the wires overheated, arced and then ignited the combustible materials.</p> <p>There were two occupants in the room at the time of the fire. One of them awoke and saw the fire. The two then fled the room, leaving the door to the corridor open. As the fire developed, the smoke spread into the hallway, activating a smoke detector that was connected to the building fire alarm system. When the fire alarm system was activated, it notified Boston College security and automatically transmitted an alarm to the Newton Fire Department, who began responding with two engines, a ladder and a command officer.</p> <p>BC Security responded, and reported that there was a fire on the top floor of the building. This information was relayed to the fire department, and the response was upgraded to a second alarm.</p> <p>A problem that arose during the fire fighting operations involved the security screens over the windows.</p>

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									<p>They were permanently affixed to the building, and the residents were not able to open them from the inside to escape the fire. Because of the heavy gauge of the metal used in these screens, fire fighters were unable to remove them from the exterior using forcible entry tools.</p> <p>Because of this, Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Coan sent an advisory to all of the fire chiefs in Massachusetts. A copy of this advisory can be found on the Campus Firewatch website by following the NEWS link.</p>
3/25/00	Drew University	Madison, NJ						X	<p>A carelessly discarded cigarette damaged a historic administration building at Drew University. A cigarette fell through the boards on a porch and ignited kerosene lamps stored underneath. Press reports state that the sprinkler system stopped the spread of the fire.</p>

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3/28/00	University of Iowa	Iowa City, IA		X					Two separate fires broke out in Daum Residence Hall. A poster board with papers on it was lit on fire at 3:30 a.m., and another similar fire occurred at 3:52 a.m. Even though the alarms sounded for the first fire, it was reported that there was no evacuation taking place.
4/3/00	St. Joseph's College	Standish, ME		X					An arson fire at Saint Joseph's College in Standish, Maine, resulted in the arrest of a 20-year-old female student. According to press reports, the fire was the fifth suspicious fire over three days. The fire on Monday, 4/3, gutted a resident-assistant's room on the first floor.
4/5/00	Indiana University	Bloomington, IN			X				A fire damaged an apartment complex that housed university students and employees. Two units were destroyed in a fire that was believed to be incendiary.
4/5/00	Brigham Young University	Provo, UT		X					An air compressor burnt out, causing a small fire that forced residents to evacuate Lavina C. Fugal Hall. The fire occurred at 3:30 a.m. and has been attributed to an earlier power outage

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4/8/00	University of Massachusetts	Amherst, MA		X					<p>A fire in a high-rise dormitory was controlled with the activation of a single sprinkler head. A student was washing his clothes when there was a power failure. He took his wet clothes and proceeded to drape them over furniture and fixtures in his room to air-dry them. A t-shirt was placed over a halogen lamp (that was equipped with a guard), and a baseball cap was hung over the room's single station smoke detector. The student then went to bed.</p> <p>Power was ultimately restored, and the lamp, which had been left in the "on" position, ignited the shirt. The shirt then fell down onto, and ignited, a couch and loveseat that the student had moved from the floor lounge into his room.</p> <p>The student was awakened (unknown what awoke him) and he observed the fire. He proceeded to awaken his roommate, and they evacuated the room. As they opened the door to the corridor, smoke escaped from the room and activated a building fire alarm smoke alarm in the hallway. During this time, the room's sprinkler head activated, controlling the fire until it was completely suppressed by the Amherst Fire Department.</p>

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4/9/00		Pittsburgh, PA		X					<p>A fire in clothing that was started when a resident fell asleep smoking was controlled by the activation of a sprinkler head. The fire occurred on the fifth floor of an eight-story building. Fire damage, according to published reports, was estimated at \$5,000.</p> <p>Fire officials were quoted as saying there were problems with evacuating the structure, and with the audibility of the fire alarm system.</p>
4/10/00	University of New Hampshire	Durham, NH			X				<p>A fire in a 200-year-old balloon-frame apartment building seriously damaged the building. Six apartments in the three-story building were rented by students from UNH.</p> <p>The fire was believed to have started in an apartment on the second floor in the area of a fireplace. Each apartment was equipped with a functional fireplace that apparently the residents were using.</p> <p>Smoke had reportedly been smelled in the early afternoon, but it wasn't enough to activate any smoke detectors. The fire was reported to the fire department at</p>

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									7:28 p.m. It required three alarms before the fire was brought under control.
4/10/00	Washington State University	Pullman, WA				X			Several fires over the weekend in fraternities were determined to be arson. One of the fires in the Tau Kappa Epsilon house was set in the stairwell. Fifteen fraternity members were in the building at the time of the fire. A heat detector was activated by the fire, which alerted the residents. A fire in another fraternity was labeled suspicious. A burning mattress was found on the porch of the Delta Chi fraternity. These were the third and fourth fraternity fires at WSU this year.
4/10/00	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Cambridge, MA	1	X					Officials have ruled "self-inflicted thermal burns," according to her death certificate, caused the fire that occurred on April 10, 2000, that killed a female student. The student died on April 14, 2000. The fire occurred in her dormitory room at MIT.

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4/11/00	University of Virginia	Charlottesville, VA			X				Carelessly disposed cigarettes may have caused a fire in a student's apartment. Eight graduate students were left homeless after the fire, which was estimated to have cause half a million dollars in damage.
4/12/00	Montclair State University	Little Falls, NJ		X					<p>A fire in a desk lamp ignited a small fire on the desk. The occupants of the room were woken by "a crackling sound," observed the fire and evacuated the room. A sprinkler head activated directly over the desk, controlling the fire until the arrival of the Little Falls Fire Department.</p> <p>The fire damage was limited to a part of the desk, papers, books and articles of clothing. Water damage was confined to the room of origin and several adjacent rooms.</p> <p>The building had been inspected by the state Division of Fire Safety on March 24. This inspection was prompted by an order from Governor Whitman, following the Seton Hall fire that killed three students in January.</p>

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4/17/00	Pennsylvania State University	State College, PA				X			A fire broke out in a fraternity that was located in a building with business and retail stores on the first floor. The Kappa Sigma fraternity occupied the second and third floors. The alarm was activated, transmitting a signal to an alarm monitoring company who, in turn, notified the fire department. The residents silenced the alarm and then attempted to extinguish the fire with a dry chemical fire extinguisher. No one called the fire department to notify them of the fire.
4/18/00	Pennsylvania State University	State College, PA				X			A small fire in a trashcan occurred at the Kappa Sigma fraternity. The fire was quickly detected by a smoke detector, which sent a signal to an alarm monitoring company.
4/19/00	North Carolina State University	Raleigh, NC		X					A fire started by a burning candle damaged a dormitory room in Becton Hall. The room's residents were not present at the time of the fire. Smoke and heat damage were limited to the room of origin.
4/27/00	Catholic University of America	Washington, DC		X					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

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									<p>dormitory room. He notified authorities of the fire via a portable radio. An RA activated the fire alarm as she was evacuating the building. Approximately 100 students were evacuated at the time of the fire. No injuries were reported.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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									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).
5/3/00	Martin Methodist College	Pulaski, TN						X	A historic home was damaged by a fire. The building was to have been renovated as an administration building.
5/5/00	California State University at Hayward	Hayward, CA						X	A fire in a library gutted several offices. No library books were damaged, but widespread smoke and water damage spread into an adjoining building.
5/6/00	Plymouth State University	Plymouth, NH			X				A fire in an off-campus house rented by students caused extensive damage to the building. The fire started in a stuffed chair on a lower level and spread to the room's contents. As the fire broke out of the window, it ignited a pine tree immediately adjacent to the house, which allowed the fire to then spread quickly to the upper story and into the roof. Three out of five of the occupants smoke, and while the cause could not be definitively determined; the chief felt that it was probably smoking

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									<p>materials.</p> <p>At the time of the fire, there were a number of parties on the street where the house was located. This street has a large concentration of off-campus student housing, and the night before the department had responded to five couch fires outside of the buildings.</p> <p>There were also "significant alcohol issues involved."</p>
5/8/00	Savannah State University	Savannah, GA						X	A fire in a 99-year old building was determined to have been accidental. A cutting torch caused the fire that destroyed the building.
5/12/00	Alfred University	Alfred, NY			X				A fire in an apartment house critically injured a student that was scheduled to graduate in two days. The building, which was a block away from Alfred University, was entirely occupied by students.
5/23/00	University of California at Berkeley	Berkeley, CA						X	A fire destroyed two marina warehouses belonging to the University of California-Berkeley. Damage estimates were above \$2 million. The fire required five alarms before it was brought under control. At the time of this report, the cause of the fire had not been determined.

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6/8/00	Columbia University	New York, NY				X			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.
6/8/00	Millikin University	Decatur, IL	1			X			<p>A fire occurred in an occupied fraternity at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. The fire claimed the life of one male student.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The building was not equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.</p> <p>The building was equipped with single station, battery-powered smoke detectors in each of the residence rooms. These detectors were replaced every year.</p> <p>There was a fire alarm system in</p>

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									<p>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.</p> <p>At the time of the fire, there were 20 people in the building.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There were four residence rooms</p>

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									<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The fire extended from the chair and involved the contents in the common room, blocking any possibility of egress from the two residence rooms.</p> <p>A passerby, who notified the fire department, detected the fire.</p>

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									<p>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.</p> <p>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 the fire fighters rescued him.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.</p>

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8/7/00	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI		X					<p>A late afternoon fire in a five-story dormitory caused damage to the roof, which was 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									system. Both activated when the fire extended into a biophysics laboratory. Damage was limited to \$50,000.
8/7/00	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI		X					A fire in a residence hall damaged the roof and caused water damage inside of the building. According to university officials, work was being done on replacing the roof of the five-story structure when the fire broke out. Summer camps were occupying the building at the time of the fire, but there were not many people in the building at the time of the fire. Damage was estimated to be approximately \$100,000.
8/7/00	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI					X		A fire occurred in a biophysics laboratory that was caused by hot works. The room was unoccupied at the time of the fire, which was caused by a hot work operation on the exterior wall of the laboratory. The sprinkler system activated and controlled the fire, which caused \$50,000 in damage.

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
8/17/00	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI						X	<p>A thirty-foot bus was being serviced in the campus maintenance building when it caught fire and severely damaged the building. The mechanic had stopped working on the bus at approximately 12:30 a.m., and within 20 minutes a campus police officer observed flames coming from the structure.</p> <p>The cause of the fire was determined to be electrical, and the area of origin was the bus.</p> <p>The fire did approximately \$1 million to \$2 million in damage. The bus services wing of the building, which is made up of four bays, was destroyed. The entire parts department for the university fleet, which is made up of about 900 vehicles, was destroyed.</p> <p>There was no sprinkler system or fire alarm system in the building.</p>
8/18/00	Oklahoma State University	Stillwater, OK				X			<p>Between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m., a fire was detected in a fraternity. A resident found papers on fire on top of a mantel and reported smelling lighter fluid. The fire was extinguished before significant damage was caused.</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
8/18/00	University of South Carolina	Columbia, SC					X		A graduate student received second and third degree burns when a fire occurred while he was mixing some chemicals. A sprinkler extinguished the fire and the building was evacuated for less than one hour. The fire caused approximately \$12,000 in damage.
8/20/00	University of California	Berkeley, CA	3		X				<p>A 21-year-old senior from the University of California-Berkeley was moving into an off-campus house before the start of the fall semester and was being assisted by her parents. At 6:42 a.m., the fire department responded to a fire in the two-story house. Upon arrival, they reported heavy smoke and fire conditions on the first and second floor of the building.</p> <p>One occupant was rescued by neighbors from a second floor window before the arrival of the fire department. Unfortunately, the senior and her parents were unable to escape the fire and were killed. The cause of death, according to press reports, was smoke inhalation. The fire was reported to be started when moving boxes were placed on top of a furnace.</p> <p>Three other girls were also</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>reported to be moving in, yet not all were in the house at the time of the fire.</p> <p>It was reported that fire officials could not find any evidence of a smoke detector in the house, which is required.</p>
8/21/00	Auburn University	Auburn, AL						X	A fire that started in a deep-fat fryer caused the evacuation of the university's largest building. Haley Center has 142 classrooms and houses the university's bookstore.
8/26/00	University of New Orleans	New Orleans, LA		X					A discarded cigar started a fire that broke out at 8:00 p.m. on the sixth floor of an eight-story residence hall. A bed was reported to be the area of origin. The fire was contained to one room by the activation of a sprinkler system. Water damage occurred to areas on the fourth, fifth and sixth floors, but students were able to return to the building by 10:30 p.m.
8/27/00	University of Colorado	Boulder, CO						X	Early Sunday morning students in an area known as University Hills rioted. About 1,000 people gathered and set fires in the street and threw bottles, bricks and other objects. This was reported to be the fifth riot in the area since 1997.

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
8/31/00	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI		X					A fan in a dormitory tipped over and ignited, causing approximately \$500 to \$1,000 in damage. The room was equipped with a single station, hardwired smoke detector that activated. A passerby heard this alarm and activated the building fire alarm system, which transmitted a signal to the university's public safety department.
8/31/00	Kansas State University	Manhattan, KS				X			<p>A fire at the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity caused serious damage to the building. The building was a three and one-half story, ordinary construction structure. It was equipped with a fire alarm system that was comprised of system smoke detectors in common areas and single station smoke detectors in the bedrooms. The building had an occupancy of 67 people. At the time of the fire, there were 65 people, and a housemother, in the structure.</p> <p>At 4:44 a.m., the Manhattan Fire Department received a call of a fire in the building. Upon arrival, the first units reported that there was smoke showing from the south and east sides of the building, with occupants exiting from all three floors. The occupants were not</p>

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Campus Incidents 2000

Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>able to verify if everyone was out of the building, so crews immediately began search and rescue operations on all three floors.</p> <p>The fire department extinguished the fire. Fire damage was limited to the room of origin, with moderate to heavy smoke damage throughout the third floor.</p> <p>According to official sources, three individuals occupied the room of origin. Two of the occupants were asleep when the third went to bed at 3:30 a.m. At approximately 4:40 a.m., this individual reported that he was having trouble breathing and he awoke to get a drink of water. When he returned to the room he observed a fire in the far corner of with heavy smoke in the room. He woke the occupants, one of whom attempted to unsuccessfully fight the fire with a fire extinguisher. They then exited the room and began knocking on doors to alert the other building occupants.</p> <p>A manual pull station activated the building fire alarm system. The fraternity president silenced the fire</p>

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Campus Incidents 2000

Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>alarm three times.</p> <p>During the fire investigation, the fire department was unable to find evidence of a battery for the smoke detector. When they checked an adjacent room, the smoke detector in that room was missing its battery.</p> <p>Following the fire the fire chief asked that the members of the fraternity's alumni board visit the house to view the damage. Acting Fire Chief Tannehill stated that he attempts to use this type of incident as an opportunity to educate them regarding the need for operating smoke detectors and other fire prevention measures.</p>
8/31/00	Penn State University	State College, PA			X				<p>A fire broke out on the fourth floor of an off-campus, seven-story apartment complex, causing heavy smoke and fire damage to the apartment of origin. It was reported that the building contained about 100 apartments, many of which are occupied by students.</p> <p>The fire occurred at approximately 6:22 p.m. It was reported that the apartment was occupied at the time of the fire. When police</p>

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 Campus Incidents 2000

Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>arrived on the scene, they reported that there was a working fire with heavy smoke showing. Reportedly, a maintenance person who lived in the building attempted to extinguish the fire using a fire extinguisher, but was unable to enter the apartment because of the heavy fire.</p> <p>The cause of the fire was determined to have been a candle. The fire damage was contained to one bedroom with heavy smoke damage throughout the apartment and the hallway outside of the apartment.</p> <p>It was reported that when the fire department attempted to evacuate the building, some of the occupants refused to leave.</p> <p>The complex is comprised of three 7-story buildings that are predominantly occupied by students. The building where the fire occurred contains 125 one- and two-bedroom apartments. It is equipped with single station smoke detectors, with system detectors in the common areas.</p>

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 Campus Incidents 2000

Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
8/31/00	University of Southern Maine	Portland, ME			X				<p>A fire in an off-campus apartment building killed one person. The fire occurred in a wood frame, three-story building that had six apartments. There were a total of 13 occupants, some of whom were students from the university.</p> <p>The fire was reported to have started in the first floor apartment in a couch at approximately 4:50 a.m. The fire was reported to the fire department by neighbors from across the street.</p> <p>Fire officials reported that the cause of the fire was tentatively being identified as careless disposal of smoking materials. The occupant of this apartment, a fifty-year old male, died in the fire. He was not a student.</p> <p>The fire spread out of the apartment to the upper stories, causing significant damage. According to fire officials, the building was equipped with single station smoke detectors that were operating upon the arrival of the fire department.</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
9/7/00	University of Maine at Machias	Machias, ME			X				A fire in an off-campus building completely destroyed the structure. The fire was reported to have been started by a cigarette in a bar on the ground floor. Four students in an apartment on the upper floor were able to escape without injuries.
9/12/00	Johnson and Wales University	Charleston, SC		X					A fire in a Johnson and Wales apartment complex destroyed the unit's kitchen and living room. Eighteen students were displaced because of the fire. Five other apartments received smoke damage from the fire.
9/12/00	University of Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN		X					An unattended candle started a fire in Roy Wilkins Hall. At approximately 11:00 p.m., a student was passing by the building and heard a smoke detector sounding. He activated the manual pull station, which alerted the occupants of the building. According to university officials, the fire was started by an unattended candle on a coffee table in one of the apartments. The fire damage was limited to the coffee table, with smoke damage in the apartment. The unit was unoccupied at the time of the fire.

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									The building is a four-story, non-combustible structure with 74 units that are a mixture of one- and two-bedroom and efficiency apartments. It is equipped with a sprinkler system in all of the units. The building is also equipped with smoke detectors, but details on the system were not available. The capacity of the building is 137 people.
9/18/00	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ					X		A small explosion and fire occurred in a classroom building at 6:00 p.m. The incident occurred in a laboratory in Boyden Hall, and was attributed to a buildup of hydrogen that leaked from a piece of apparatus.
9/21/00	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College	Miami, OK						X	A fire that destroyed a building used as an intramural gym and music hall was caused by sparks from a welding operation.

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Campus Incidents 2000

Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
9/25/00	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Madison, WI			X				A female student was charged with arson in connection with a fire at the Eagle Heights apartment building. According to press reports, she started the fire in her apartment as a suicide attempt, but abandoned the attempt and fled the apartment. Damage was limited to the apartment of origin and was estimated to be approximately \$40,000. The apartment building had 12 units.
9/26/00	Brown University	Providence, RI		X					A candle in Emery Hall at Brown University, Rhode Island, ignited a student's books and papers on fire. She had left the candle burning when she went to sleep, and was woken when the room's smoke detector was activated. The student was treated for second degree burns.
9/27/00	Ithaca College	Ithaca, NY						X	A fire in the kitchen of a dining facility forced the evacuation of 700 students from the dining facility and two adjacent residence halls. The fire damage was limited to the grill area and ductwork. The fire occurred at 6:41 p.m., and students were allowed to return to their rooms at approximately 11:30 p.m.

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
9/29/00	University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA	1		X				<p>A student was killed in an off-campus house fire that was determined to be arson.</p> <p>The fire was reported at 6:36 a.m. to the Pittsburgh Fire Department.</p> <p>The fire was started on the second floor in the apartment by the ex-boyfriend of the occupant, who was not home at the time of the fire. It was reported that there were eight people in the three-story building at the time of the fire. All, except for the student on the third floor, were able to escape from the building. The cause of death for the occupant on the third floor was smoke inhalation.</p> <p>The building was equipped with smoke detectors, some of which were hardwired and some were single-station, battery-powered. Officials reported that some were not operational at the time of the fire, although it is unknown which ones did not operate.</p>
9/29/00	Penn State University	State College, PA			X				<p>A fire in an off-campus apartment building was contained to the kitchen of a second floor apartment, with significant heat and smoke damage throughout the unit. According to Tim Knisely,</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									senior fire and housing inspector for the Centre Region Code Administration, the area of origin was the trashcan. It was detected by the automatic detection system. The building was a three-story, non-combustible, unsprinklered building that housed a number of students.
10/5/00	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI						X	A fire occurred in the University of Michigan University Hospital's waste incinerator. The incinerator was being dismantled when the fire occurred. The fire was confined to the incinerator.
10/6/00	Tennessee Tech University	Cookeville, TN				X			<p>A fire in a three story, wood-frame fraternity destroyed the second and third stories of the building in an early morning fire.</p> <p>According to fire officials, the alarm was called in at 5:28 a.m. A female witness is reported to have heard a smoke detector activating, and upon investigation found a fire in the room. She woke the occupants of the room, who then escaped.</p> <p>Upon arrival, the fire department reported that there was fire on the second floor. Several students had climbed out on the roof of the building from the second floor that</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>had to be rescued by ladders. Some of the occupants had jumped out of the building from windows on the second floor, while the occupants of the third floor had come down the single interior open stairway. One of these occupants suffered first and second degree burns.</p> <p>Others occupants who were on the front lawn, could not verify that everyone was out of the building. Because it was Homecoming, there were additional guests in the building at the time.</p> <p>A crew immediately advanced a hoseline to the second floor, while another crew advanced to the third floor to conduct search and rescue operations. A second hoseline was advanced to the second floor to assist in the firefighting operations because the fire had spread from the room of origin, across the hall into a bathroom.</p> <p>The fire was brought under control in approximately 30 minutes.</p> <p>According to Chief Schmid of the Cookeville Fire Department, the cause of the fire was electrical. In</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>the room of origin an extension cord had been plugged into a wall outlet, run under a carpet, and then bundled up under a desk. There were a number of appliances plugged into this extension cord, including a computer, several refrigerators, a microwave and other items.</p> <p>The building was a three-story, balloon-frame structure with a basement. There were approximately five sleeping rooms—three on the second floor and two on the third floor.</p> <p>There were single station, battery-powered smoke detectors in the individual rooms and in the corridors.</p> <p>The only means of egress for the second and third floors were via an open stairway that extended from the first floor to the third floor.</p> <p>This fraternity had been inspected last year at the request of their request. At that time, the fire department advised the fraternity to not use the third floor as a sleeping area because of the lack of adequate egress.</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
10/9/00	University of Nebraska at Omaha	Omaha, NE						X	A fire at the Omaha football stadium damaged three motorized carts, football and track equipment as well as the training and weight rooms. The fire is believed to be accidental.
10/11/00	Dean College	Franklin, MA			X				<p>An off-campus fire in a multi-family house caused significant damage to the building.</p> <p>The building was a Victorian style, balloon-frame structure. The fire started on the second floor, and was reported to have been caused by combustible material on top of a stove being ignited when a burner was turned on.</p> <p>A resident that was trapped on the second floor made the call to the Franklin Fire Department at approximately 4:00 p.m. Four people were rescued from the building, and one was transported to a nearby hospital for smoke inhalation.</p> <p>It was reported that there were smoke detectors in the building and they were operational at the time of the fire.</p> <p>One of the occupants of the building was a student at nearby</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									Dean College. Dean College has had two serious dormitory fires since 1995.
10/10/00	University of Virginia	Charlottesville, VA				X			Too many electrical cords plugged in an electrical panel caused a fire in the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. The fire was small, but as a result, officials inspected the house and found a number of life-safety violations that resulted in the house being closed until corrections were made. Some of the violations included miswired electrical panels and extension cords being used as permanent wiring.
10/13/00	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ			X				<p>A fire in an off-campus apartment building damaged two apartments and displaced 20 Rutgers University students. The fire occurred at approximately 5:30 a.m. and was detected by a passing university employee who saw smoke coming out of the eaves of the building.</p> <p>The students were awoken by the sounds of fire fighters and police officers shouting for them to leave the building. One student reported smelling smoke for an hour before the fire, which was reported to be electrical.</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>According to fire officials, the fire started in an exterior wall. Because the structure was balloon-frame construction, it was necessary to open up the wall to check for fire extension in the fire building as well as the adjacent apartment building.</p> <p>The building of origin was equipped with single station smoke detectors in the units and smoke detectors in the common areas. The smoke detectors in the unit of origin were not operational because the students had removed the batteries.</p>
10/15/00	University of Texas at El Paso	El Paso, TX						X	A fire in an area where sets for theatrical performances are stored damaged a field house at Kidd Field. The fire occurred shortly after 8:00 p.m.
10/16/00	University of Mississippi	Oxford, MS		X					A candle that was left burning on a desk caused a fire in Stockard Hall, a residence hall.
10/18/00	St. Louis University	St. Louis, MO					X		The compressor on a freezer containing hazardous materials exploded in a molecular biology laboratory. According to press reports, no radioactive contamination was found. There were about 15 people in the laboratory at the time of the

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									explosion, which occurred at about 2:30 pm.
10/19/00	Penn State University	State College, PA					X		A minor fire occurred in a lab at Penn State University. Smoke detectors activated and first arriving Police encountered a moderate smoke condition in the lab. The fire was extinguished using a portable fire extinguisher. Alpha Fire Company checked for extension using the Thermal Imaging Camera with no signs of extension found. Damage was confined to two ceiling fluorescent lights and an office chair. Initial investigation indicates fire originated at the lamp socket causing melting plastic from the light shield to drip on the cushion of the chair. Building was re-occupied after units cleared the scene.
10/21/00	Northeastern University	Boston, MA		X					A fire that started by an electrical power strip in a residence hall forced the evacuation of 100 students. According to press reports, the fire alarm never sounded and the police were required to knock on doors to evacuate the building. The sixth-floor room was engulfed in flames upon arrival.

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
10/22/00	North Dakota State University	Fargo, ND			X				<p>An off-campus apartment fire caused serious damage at the University Village in Fargo, North Dakota. According to officials, the fire started in the attic area of the building near a recessed light fixture.</p> <p>The building, which was referred to as 'F Court' was a two-story structure that had 16 apartment-style units. Two students lived in each unit. The building was equipped with hallway, system smoke detectors, pull stations and heat detectors in the mechanical rooms. Activation of any of these devices would activate the building fire alarm system and transmit a signal to campus security.</p> <p>There were single station smoke detectors in the individual units.</p> <p>The fire occurred on a Saturday, shortly after 6:00 p.m. The fire started in the attic area above the level of the smoke detectors. It was first observed by the occupants of the adjacent building, who ran over and began knocking on individual apartment doors to alert the occupants. No one activated the pull stations.</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>According to a fire official, a number of the students did not believe that there really was a fire and did not evacuate. It took three attempts before one student finally evacuated his apartment. The official speculated that if the fire had occurred at night, with the delayed alarm, the outcome could have been catastrophic.</p> <p>There were no injuries.</p> <p>The building was a total loss. A number of the students on the second floor, on the north end, lost all of their belongings to the fire. Others in the building had their property damaged either by the fire, smoke or water.</p>
10/22/00		Washington, DC			X				<p>A fire in a house killed one man who was sleeping in the basement that had only one means of egress. A college student who lived on the second floor of the house was not home at the time of the fire.</p>
10/25/00	Santa Fe High School	Santa Fe, New Mexico						X	<p>A fire destroyed the administration in the center of the campus. The building contained the high school's mainframe computer as well as the main phone link for the campus. The damage was estimated between \$1 million and</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									\$2 million. Santa Fe High School has a number of buildings that are spread out over several acres, similar to a college campus.
10/27/00	University of Massachusetts	Amherst, MA			X				<p>An off-campus house where five students lived was severely damaged by a fire that occurred at approximately 10:00 p.m.</p> <p>The building where the fire occurred was a two-story, wood frame structure. Either four or five students from the University of Massachusetts occupied it.</p> <p>There were conflicting accounts of how the fire started. According to one report, the fire was caused when a student was attempting to use kerosene to refuel a Halloween decoration on the front porch. Another account was that the pumpkin ignited from the flame inside of it, and the fire spread to the porch.</p> <p>It was reported that the occupants attempted to extinguish the fire, but were unsuccessful. They then left the front door of the house open, which allowed the fire to spread rapidly to the interior and up the stairway, which was immediately adjacent to the front door.</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									The building was a total loss and was subsequently demolished.
10/28/00	Pittsburgh State University	Pittsburgh, PA						X	A fire that was caused by a power strip occurred in Heckert-Well Hall, killing about one-third of a collection of snakes, mammals, birds and other animals, as well as destroying tens of thousands of dollars of equipment.
11/2/00	Defiance College	Defiance, OH						X	A fire was set over the weekend in a closet in Schomburg Auditorium. Most of the damage was caused by smoke, and the fire was contained to the closet.
11/5/00	University of Vermont	Burlington, VT			X				<p>A fire in a house off-campus rented by five students injured three of the occupants.</p> <p>The building where the fire occurred was a wood, balloon-frame structure with three stories. The building was equipped with smoke detectors, and there were two in the apartment of origin. One was located in the hallway by the bedroom, and the other was located in the living room.</p> <p>An exterior and interior stairway led to the third floor. However, they were not separate or remote from one another.</p>

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Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>There were three apartments in the building. In the apartment of origin, on the third floor, there were four bedrooms.</p> <p>At 6:08 a.m., the fire department responded to the house for a reported fire. Upon arrival, they were told that there were people trapped on the third floor. Firefighters entered the building via the exterior stairway and had to crawl beneath the flames until they found one unconscious male. He was removed from the building and was in respiratory arrest.</p> <p>Search operations continued and an unconscious female victim was found in one of the bedrooms. She was also removed from the building and was in respiratory arrest. A third victim was treated for injuries sustained when he and another male jumped from their bedroom windows onto the roof of a first story porch.</p> <p>The fire was extinguished in 20 minutes, and damage was confined to the third-floor apartment. Damage was estimated to be approximately</p>

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				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>\$50,000.</p> <p>The investigation determined that the fire started in the living room couch by improper disposal of smoking materials. There were the remains of alcohol bottles, candles and cigarettes found on the living room table.</p> <p>According to fire officials, the fact that the stairways were not remote and separate was a contributing factor to one of the injuries that occurred.</p>
11/10/00	University of Miami	Oxford, OH				X			<p>A fire in an off-campus fraternity seriously injured one student.</p> <p>The building where the fire occurred was the Sigma Chi fraternity. It is a three-story, masonry structure. The hallway outside the room of origin had been covered with wood paneling sometime in the past.</p> <p>The building was equipped with single station, battery-operated smoke detectors in the hallways and in the individual rooms. The building was equipped with a local fire alarm system that could be activated by manual pull stations.</p>

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Campus Incidents 2000

Date	Institution	Location	Fatalities	Facility					Synopsis
				Resid. Hall	Off Campus	Greek	Academic	Other	
									<p>There were officially 45 people living in the building, but it was reported that there were an unknown number of guests in the building at the time of the fire.</p> <p>The fire was reported to the fire department at 5:10 a.m. According to the occupant of room 208, he had lit a four-wick candle at approximately 3:00 a.m. while studying. At approximately 5:00 a.m., he went to take a shower and left the candle burning on a table with combustible materials nearby.</p> <p>When he returned from the shower, he could hear the smoke detector in the room sounding. He opened the door and observed the end of the couch on fire. He closed the door, went about 30 feet down the hall to get a friend, and they returned with a CO2 fire extinguisher and a pressurized water fire extinguisher, which was not charged.</p> <p>They opened the door, and the room was heavily involved with fire. They discharged the CO2 fire extinguisher in the room and then retreated. Because of the heavy fire, they were not able to close the</p>

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									<p>door. They began alerting the other occupants of the building, and someone pulling a manual pull station activated the local fire alarm system.</p> <p>Upon arrival, the fire department reported smoke and fire extending out of second-story windows on the second floor. A crew went to the second floor, while another crew equipped with a thermal imaging camera went to the third floor. As they entered the third floor, which was heavily charged with smoke, they found a male victim in the bathroom. This victim was removed from the building and transported to the local hospital. He was then flown to a level1 trauma center in Dayton, Ohio. According to fire officials, he is recovering at this time.</p> <p>The fire extended out of the room of origin through the open door and into the hallway, consuming the combustible wall paneling. It also extended to the third floor and the attic via the window. Three rooms were damaged by direct flame impingement. The fire chief estimated the loss at \$500,000.</p>

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									<p>Earlier in the evening, there had been a small fire in a room down the hall from room 208. A lit candle had been placed on top of a speaker, and had been vibrated off. It ignited some combustible materials, but was quickly extinguished. This is why the CO2 fire extinguisher that was used in the subsequent fire was positioned in the hallway.</p> <p>The fire chief cited candles as becoming a significant problem in his community. He mentioned an incident where they had gone into a fraternity and found an unattended lit candle resting on a Styrofoam plate, on top of a blanket, resting on a pool table. He estimated that they are finding evidence of candles in 70 to 80% of the rooms where they conduct inspections. Often, they are located on the lower levels of bookcases, with combustible materials above them.</p>
11/14/00	Hampshire College	Amherst, MA		X					<p>A fire occurred in an apartment-style residence hall.</p> <p>The building where the fire occurred was a three-story, wood frame structure that had been built about 25 years ago. It was</p>

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									<p>equipped with a sprinkler system.</p> <p>At 4:43 p.m., the Amherst Fire Department responded to a report of an alarm sounding. Enroute, it was reported that the sprinkler system had activated, and additional units were dispatched.</p> <p>There were moderate smoke conditions upon arrival. It was determined that two sprinkler heads had activated in the kitchen area of one of the apartments.</p> <p>Subsequent investigation determined that a female occupant had put a pan of oil on the electric stove and then left the unit. The oil ignited, and the fire caused two sprinkler heads to open, controlling the fire. Fire damage was limited to the immediate area of the stove, with some water damage in the apartment unit. Damage was estimated to be \$1,500.</p> <p>Because the fire was controlled by the sprinkler system, it was not necessary to advance any lines into the building.</p> <p>NOTE: Hampshire College was the site of a fire in April 2000 in</p>

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									another apartment-style dormitory. The fire in April occurred in a non-sprinklered building and caused significant damage to the apartment. During the summer, the portion of the building damaged by the fire was equipped with a fire sprinkler system, and the other half of the building will be equipped with one next summer.
11/15/00	Kean University	Union, NJ						X	A fire in an elevator motor injured six people. The motor caught fire and trapped six people inside the elevator. The police were able to open the elevator and rescue the occupants. All were treated and released.
11/16/00	Lee College	Baytown, TX	1		X				An off-campus house fire claimed the life of a 21-year-old student. The fire occurred in a house where there was no heat because it was being remodeled. The fire started in the back bedroom where the student was sleeping. His body was found in the dining room. There was no evidence of a space heater or smoke detector found.

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11/17/00	Washington State University	Pullman, WA				X			Two fraternity men were arrested for allegedly breaking into the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and setting off a smoke bomb that ignited a portion of the carpet. Smoke alarms were activated because of the fire. Both men admitted they were intoxicated at the time of the incident.
11/20/00	Montclair State University	Montclair, NJ		X					An electrical fire forced the evacuation of 600 students for one hour. According to press reports the students were using a fire when the plug short-circuited, causing the fire.
11/22/00	New York University	New York, NY	1		X				<p>A graduate student was killed in an apartment fire. Three candles at the foot of her bed that ignited her mattress started the fire. The woman, Helen Carnegie, 25, was found lying on the floor next to the bed. At the time of the press account, an autopsy had not been completed, but it was reported that she appeared to have died of smoke inhalation.</p> <p>According to Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen, there have been 239 fires started by candles this year. This fire was the 13th fatal candle fire, an increase of eight from the previous year.</p>

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11/23/00	University of Nevada-Las Vegas	Las Vegas, NV		X					A fire in a residence hall on Thanksgiving morning was controlled by the activation of a sprinkler system. The fire broke out during Thanksgiving break and caused water damage to six rooms. The room was unoccupied at the time of the fire.
11/26/00	Oregon State University	Corvallis, OR			X				An OSU senior was able to escape an early morning fire that caused significant damage to her house. She was the only one of the five occupants that was home at the time of the fire. According to press reports, she was awoken by the sound of breaking glass, opened her door and was faced with a wall of smoke. She was able to make it through the smoke and escape from the building.
12/4/00	Washington State University	Pullman, WA			X				A fire in an apartment at the University of Washington was started when a mattress was left on a baseboard heater. The fire was contained to the room of origin because of a closed door, according to a spokesperson. The fire did not damage the other two apartments in the building.
11/30/00	Tennessee Tech University	Cookeville, TN					X		Two fires occurred in Prescott Hall. The first was believed to have been started by a fan motor. The second was discovered four hours

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									later by a security guard and destroyed a four-room office. Other areas of the building were damaged by smoke and water and classes had to be relocated to other buildings.
11/30/00	University of California-Berkeley	Berkeley, CA		X					Two fires in a dormitory are suspected to be arson. The fire department responded to fire alarms in the building shortly after 3:00 a.m. where they found two separate fires. One had been ignited in the laundry room while a second was occurred in a pile of papers in a second floor hallway.
12/8/00	Seton Hall University	South Orange, NJ		X					A small trash can fire in Boland Hall, the site of the tragic January 2000 fire that killed three students, was extinguished by the activation of the sprinkler head. Six hundred students were evacuated.
12/9/00	Bryant College	Smithfield, RI		X					A fire started by a candle in a four-story dormitory injured two students. Two public safety officers were also taken to the hospital for evaluation. The fire occurred when the candle was knocked over onto the bed. Bryant has a policy against the use of candles.
12/9/00	University of North Carolina	Chapel Hill, NC				X			A fire in the Sigma Nu fraternity was controlled by the activation of two sprinklers. According to an

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									<p>interview by Campus Firewatch with Fire Chief Dan Jones, the occupant had discarded an ashtray into a plastic wastebasket and then left the room. The contents of the wastebasket were ignited, which subsequently spread to adjacent combustibles. Two sprinkler heads in the room of origin operated, extinguishing the fire.</p> <p>The occupants of the house were unaware that a fire had occurred, and contacted the fire department because they believed a sprinkler head had failed. Upon investigation by the fire department, the fire was discovered.</p> <p>The sprinkler system had been connected to the water supply only two days before the incident. All fraternities are under a mandatory sprinkler ordinance, and must have sprinkler systems installed by September 2001.</p> <p>Sigma Nu is immediately adjacent to the Phi Gamma Delta house, which was the site of the fatal fire in 1996 that killed five students.</p>
12/10/00	University of Dayton	Dayton, OH	1	X					A fire in a house owned by the University of Dayton killed a

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									<p>student on Sunday, December 10. Austin Cohen, 21, of Loveland and a senior at the university, died in the fire. There were eight students living in the house at the time of the fire. According to reports, the residents had extinguished an earlier fire at the house. One of the occupants, a University of Dayton student, was later arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter and arson.</p> <p>According to fire department officials, the fire alarm system was disconnected at the time of the fire.</p> <p>The building was a two-story, wood frame building that was owned by the University of Dayton. According to fire officials, the university was buying a number of properties to use for student housing.</p>

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12/10/00	University of Texas	Austin, TX				X			<p>A fire caused \$1.5 million in damage following a holiday party in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. It was caused when someone discarded a cigarette onto shredded paper that had been strewn on the floor to simulate snow. The fraternity system had agreed to undergo fire department inspections before such gatherings, but the Austin Fire Department had not been contacted before this fire.</p> <p>It was reported that the floor was covered with 18 inches of confetti.</p>
12/12/00	University of Missouri at Columbia	Columbia, MO						X	<p>On December 12, 2000 at approx. 10:15 PM the Columbia Missouri Fire Department responded to a fire at the Rollins Cafeteria. Rollins Cafeteria is a central dining hall adjoined at common entrances to two 7-story residence halls.</p> <p>The fire was in a utility room just off the kitchen. The contents in a dryer caught fire when employee's placed cleaning towels in the dryer for an extended period. The towels should not have been dried but rather hung to dry on a clothesline. A five gallon plastic bucket on top of the dryer added to the fuel load.</p>

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									<p>The fire was controlled and all but extinguished by a single sprinkler head activation. This is a limited area sprinkler for the cafeteria only and does not cover the residence halls themselves.</p> <p>Residence hall assistants performed well during the fire and the building was evacuated in short order with little trouble from the residents despite the fact it was 8 degrees outside. Residents were displaced to nearby residence halls for about 1- ½hours.</p>
12/17/00	George Washington University	Washington, DC						X	A fire in an underground electrical vault on the GWU campus forced the evacuation of three dormitories.