

If a fire should occur...

- CLOSE the doors to stop the spread of the fire
- SOUND the alarm, alert others to the danger
- GET OUT of the building
- NOTIFY the fire department

DO NOT go back into the building or try to save your stuff.

Clothes, books and papers can be replaced-

YOU CAN'T!

LIVING WITH FIRE
A PROGRAM FOR CAMPUS AND STUDENT FIRE SAFETY

Living With Fire is a project to develop campus-oriented fire safety material. It is available through the U.S Fire Administration website at www.usfa.fema.gov.

Funding for this project was provided by the following organizations committed to reducing the tragic losses caused by fires involving students:

- American Cancer Society
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association
- National Fire Sprinkler Association
- NFPA International
- SimplexGrinnell
- United States Fire Administration
- University of Texas System

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**INFO BULLETIN
ON...**

Off-Campus Fatal Fires

*Berkeley, CA
New York, NY
Pittsburgh, PA
Morgantown, WV*

LIVING WITH FIRE
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Off-Campus Fatal Fires Information Bulletin

Berkeley, California/ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania/ New York, New York/ Morgantown, West Virginia

Berkeley, California... 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.

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.

Three other girls were also reported to be moving in, yet not all were in the house at the time of the fire.

It was reported that fire officials could not find any evidence of a smoke detector in the house, which is required.

New York, New York... A graduate student from the University of New York 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.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania... A student from the University of Pittsburgh was killed in an off-campus house fire that was determined to be arson.

The fire was reported at 6:36 a.m. to the Pittsburgh Fire Department.

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.

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.

FACTS ABOUT FIRES IN STUDENT HOUSING...

From 2000 to mid-2001, Campus Firewatch has identified a total of 26 students that have been killed in fires.

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Morgantown, West Virginia... A fire in an off-campus house killed one student and left another man critically injured.

The fire occurred in an off-campus house that had been converted into apartment units. There were three people living in the building, but one was not home at the time of the fire.

There were two smoke detectors in the building. One was operational, but the smoke detector on the second floor, where the fatality was found, did not have a battery. The person that was critically injured was awakened by the operation of the smoke detector on the first floor.

The fire department responded to the fire at 8:31 a.m. As soon as the first engine was pulling out of the station they could see heavy smoke and upgraded the response.

Upon arrival the fire fighters attempted to rescue the trapped victim on the second floor. However, due to the heavy fire involvement they were not able to make access.

The cause of the fire has been determined to be electrical.

According to fire officials, they have been having a serious problem with student-related fire activity. In 2000 there were over 100 street fires set in the Sunnyside section of Morgantown, which is notorious for partying. Several of these fires have escalated into bonfires and into structure fires.