FIRE SAFETY

2015-2016
FIRE SAFETY

Prevention

Fire prevention is everyone’s responsibility. The University has established fire-prevention policies and regulations but cannot anticipate every possible scenario that might result in fire. Individual awareness and common sense are required to mitigate the potential for fire.

The Fire Safety module connects students to procedures and resources to help prevent fires, and to respond appropriately in the unlikely event that a fire occurs.
FIRE PREVENTION

• Arson and igniting fires are prohibited.
• Candles, other devices that produce open flames, oil lamps, and incense, are prohibited in the residences, and subject to confiscation, whether or not they are lit at the time they are discovered.
• Use or possession of fireworks is prohibited.
• Halogen lights and other light sources that produce dangerous levels of heat are prohibited in campus residences.
• Flammable materials (e.g., sheets, blankets, bandanas, scarves, paper), may not be used to cover or obstruct light sources or heating/cooling sources.
• Heat producing appliances (stoves, ovens, coffee makers, heating pads, slow-cookers, irons, electric curling irons, electric curlers, etc.) must be attended when turned on.
FIRE PREVENTION

- Items cooking on stovetops or in ovens must be attended for the duration of the cooking, baking, broiling, or roasting process.
- Appliances with exposed heating elements are prohibited, except for those provided by the University in apartment kitchens.
- Appliances that draw a large amount of current from each circuit, such as hot plates, air conditioners, electric heaters, and instant water-heating elements, are prohibited.
- Permitted appliances used in campus residences must be in good condition, with special attention given to seals, electrical cords, and plugs.
- Only power strips with circuit breakers may be used as extension cords.
FIRE PREVENTION

• Tube lights and string lights are prohibited, except that string lights may be used under the following conditions: deployed in individual rooms, only, and not in common areas; UL approved and in good condition; no more than three strands strung together, and plugged directly into an outlet or into a power strip (as above) that is plugged directly into an outlet.

• Combustible materials (gasoline, kerosene, camp-stove fuel, lighter fluid, etc.) may not be kept or stored in campus residences.

• Cardboard boxes may not be used for storage of items in storage areas.

• Motorcycles, mopeds, and other internal combustion machines may not be kept or stored in University housing.

• The University’s smoke-free campus policy limits smoking to designated outdoor areas. A map to the designated locations can be found at http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd/main/housing/housing-policies/smoke-free-policy/ Extinguishing or disposing of smoking materials by any means other than the urns provided is prohibited.
FIRE PREVENTION

• The Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Fire Code prohibits the use and storage of grills within ten (10) feet of any combustible materials on any balcony or patio of a multifamily dwelling. Use or storage of grills (for either outdoor or indoor use, including "George Foreman" grills and like devices), is prohibited on any balcony or patio, and in residential facilities.

• Resident-owned furniture brought into residence halls and Greek houses must meet the hospitality/contract-grade furniture fire-safety specifications of either the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard 260, or the California Technical Bulletin 117, section E.

• Seasonal décor can present special challenges. Therefore, cut greenery and cut trees are prohibited. Installation of elaborate door decorations is limited to a specified period of time--set by appropriate administrators--during which a residential unit may be conducting judging for a competition, and in any case, may not remain overnight.
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Equipment

Fire alarms, extinguishers, sprinklers, smoke detectors, and emergency exits are all provided to mitigate the possibility and severity of fire in University buildings, and to enable efficient evacuation should evacuation become necessary. Residents and guests must do their part to ensure that evacuation routes remain clear, and that equipment is available and functioning when required, by complying with the policies delineated below.
1. Walkways, stairs, and corridors must be kept clear at all times for emergency egress. Storage in these areas is prohibited.

2. Bicycles may not be stored in hallways, stairwells, or other common areas because they may block emergency egress. Bicycles may be stored in student rooms.

3. Access to windows and doors must be kept clear for emergency egress.

4. Emergency exits may be used only for emergency exit, or exit during drills. Other use is prohibited.

5. Failure to evacuate a building when a fire alarm sounds is prohibited.
6. The following are prohibited and will likely result in corrective action through the University’s accountability process, which action may include suspension from the University and/or a prorated damage charge among the residents of a particular area if the responsible person(s) cannot be identified:

- Activating a fire alarm for reasons other than alerting building occupants to smoke or fire.
- Disabling fire-alarm and smoke-detection systems;
- Tampering with door alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler heads, water-flow or other control valves and other fire-safety equipment;
- Tampering with smoke detectors, emergency phones, or other safety and security equipment;
- Tampering with fire-exit lights, signs, horns, strobes, or other notification devices;
- Suspending Items from ceilings, smoke detectors, sprinkler heads, overhead piping, or on or near water pipes, or draping items over fire safety equipment;
- Tampering with or damaging fire-exit lights, signs, horns, strobes, or other notification devices;
- Tampering with, obstructing and unauthorized use of emergency-exit doors.
FIRE SAFETY

Response

Sounding an alarm: If you discover flame or thick smoke, activate the alarm by engaging the closest pull station.
RESPONSE

*Reporting*: Call 911 to report the location of the fire or smoke.

*Extinguishing*: If you can do so without putting yourself or anyone else at risk, smother a grease fire by putting the lid on the pan, otherwise, discharge a chemical extinguisher at the base of the flame.
RESPONSE

Evacuating: When a fire alarm is sounded, proceed to the closest, accessible exit.

- Take your key and cell phone if they are readily available, and lock your door.
- Wear shoes if at all possible.
- Before opening a door to a corridor, feel the door and touch the doorknob to ensure that neither is unusually warm.
- If the door and knob are not unusually warm, open the door cautiously, and be prepared to close it immediately.
- Proceed to stairwells and exits. If you encounter smoke at any point in the evacuation process, drop to the floor to mitigate its effects, and crawl to your exit.
- Stay out of elevators! Elevator shafts can become chimneys in which occupants can be asphyxiated.
- Do not return to the building until authorized by to do so by police or fire department personnel.
RESPONSE

_Shelter in Place:_ If you cannot evacuate your room, place towels at the base or your door and dampen them with water, if possible.

- Hang a towel or other device out your window to signal to responders that the room remains occupied.
- If smoke fills the room, open your window to the extent that you can breath air from the exterior.
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Liability

Residents may be held *financially responsible* for damages or losses resulting from accidents or negligence. Residents who suffer losses under such circumstances must take their claims to their own homeowners or renters insurance carriers. These companies may subrogate the claims to the carrier of the responsible resident’s insurance. (Note: Among the most common occurrences is water damage caused by the triggering of interior sprinklers as a result of horseplay, or hanging objects from sprinkler heads. And, there have been cases of residents’ families’ insurance companies settling claims of other residents for sums totaling over six figures due to smoke and water damages as the result of a fire.)