

CAMPUS Firewatch™

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Student from Eastern Michigan University killed in off-campus fire in Ann Arbor, Michigan

On April 3, 2010, a student from Eastern Michigan University was killed in an off-campus fire in Ann Arbor, Michigan. According to the university, 22-year-old Renden LeMasters was a senior in the College of Technology.

In an interview with Campus Firewatch, Ann Arbor Fire Marshal Kathleen Chamberlain reported that the fire was reported at approximately 5:30 a.m. and started in the area of the front porch which contained upholstered furniture, trash and other combustibles. The fire, which was detected by a passerby, then spread into the interior of the building through a front dormer window and two doors that were left open when the occupants escaped from the fire. The victim was found in front of the building by the first arriving fire department personnel. The cause of the fire is under investigation and has

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Couch, porches and decks

A fire this month in Ann Arbor, Michigan, claimed the life of Renden LeMasters, 22. According to fire officials, the fire started out on the porch which contained a sofa, trash and other combustibles. As of this time, the exact cause of the fire has not been determined.

This is not the first fire that has occurred in Ann Arbor involving upholstered furniture on porches. Since 2004, there have been five fires in off-campus housing where the point of origin was a couch, according to a study done by Lt. Amy Brow from the Ann Arbor Fire Department. Of those five, three were from careless disposal of smoking materials, one was improper disposal of charcoal and one was arson.

Recognizing that this is such a danger, in 2003 the fire department put forward an ordinance that would control the use of interior furnishings on exterior porches. Unfortunately, the ordinance did not pass at that time for a variety of reasons, including strong opposition from the students. However, the Ann Arbor Fire Marshal Kathleen Chamberlain reported that as a result of this latest fire they are going to introduce the ordinance again.

What is the risk?

In looking over all of the campus-related incidents compiled since January 2000, 33 incidents involving porches or decks were identified. Nine were fatal fires that killed 20 people which represents 14% of all of the fire fatalities since January 2000.

In a number of these fires, similar scenarios are found where the fire broke out late at night while the occupants were sleeping. Since the fires started on the exterior, where there would not be any smoke alarms, they were not detected in the incipient stage and were able to grow. Often the alarm was sounded by a passerby who would either call 911 or alert the occupants to the fire.

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Igot2kno for Fall 2010

By Ed Comeau, Publisher

The education program, www.igot2kno.org, has become an incredibly useful tool for campuses to use in educating students about their personal role in campus fire safety. In Fall 2010, an new and updated version will be available for schools to use in reaching out to their students. And best of all, it is free – paid for through a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Department of Homeland Security to the People’s Burn Foundation who has teamed up again with Ed Comeau, the publisher of Campus Firewatch to develop this program



In addition to the material already in the current version, igot2kno 2.0 will focus on three areas that were selected by a national poll of campus fire safety officials as both areas of serious concern and that are also lacking existing material and information.

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FROM THE Editor



Education.

There are different ways to approach trying to reduce (eliminate?) fire deaths and injuries and they are known as the E's – education, engineering and enforcement. Engineering and enforcement are the approaches that seem to be relied upon most in our society and have done us well over the years. However, we really need to take a look at the first one, education.

Before they came to college, what was the last time that most college students had a fire safety class, presentation, program or received information? Chances are it was in elementary school when Sparky stopped by and did stop, drop and roll with them. Since then, the chances are that they did not get much more until they came to college and, unfortunately, they might not really get a lot of exposure for the rest of their lives.

The late Guylene Proulx, a scientist who studied human behavior during fire emergencies, told me that one of the benefits of being exposed to fire safety information is that the human mind does have the ability to retain and retrieve it during a crisis. While it is always best to repeat and reinforce the lessons, if a person only saw a message once, such as to look for two ways out, when the crisis hits, the mind has the ability to find this nugget of information and act on it. Not always, not universally, but it can and does happen.

When students come to college they don't realize how much of fire safety is now their personal responsibility, that it is in their hands to make a difference. This is especially true when they move off campus where they need to know about choosing fire-safe housing and looking for housing with sprinklers, making sure there are enough working smoke alarms, knowing the consequences of disabling a smoke alarm, knowing how to prevent a fire and what to do if one breaks out – the list goes on. But who will teach them this, these life-long lessons that they need to know?

This is where colleges and universities come in and can play a vital role in protecting students not only for the time they are in school, but for the rest of their lives. Across the nation, fire deaths have leveled off after significant reductions following the introduction of smoke alarms. We need to take the next step in bringing it down again, and education is one of the quickest and easiest ways to do this. By educating this demographic now, they can be a force for change in the future.

In August we'll be rolling out igot2kno 2.0, a new version of the landmark online education program developed by the People's Burn Foundation. It will have new features and to draw in the students a sweepstakes will be held in September with the grand prize of an iPad – quite the incentive to take part in a series of fire safety games, don't you think? But we need you to help spread the word to the students when it is launched! I'll be keeping you up-to-date on what is happening, but be ready. igot2kno 2.0 is coming August 2010!

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 ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com.

CAMPUS 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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Contact us at ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com and let's talk!

Student from Eastern Michigan University

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not been determined at this time.

The building is a two-story, wood-frame, building that had been divided into three units located in the basement, first floor and second floor. There were interconnected smoke alarms in the building but no residential fire sprinklers.

According to Chamberlain, the Ann Arbor Fire Department had previously attempted to have an ordinance passed that would ban upholstered furniture from front porches but was unsuccessful. Before this fire occurred, they were in the process of trying again because of the danger that these conditions present. "These are incredible fire hazards," said Chamberlain.

Nationwide, this is the fifth campus-related fire fatality to occur in the 2009-2010 academic year, all of which have occurred since January. According to information compiled by Campus Firewatch, 140 people have died in campus-related fires since January 2000 with over 84% of them occurring in off-campus occupancies where a majority of the students across the nation live.



Couch, porches and decks - Continued from Page 1

With a large fire on the outside of the building, it now has the ability to extend vertically up the exterior wall until it reaches the eaves or in through a window to the interior of the structure. In both cases, it presents a significant risk to the occupants because it is now a well-established fire and is also blocking what is typically a primary means of egress from the building.

The study done by Brow as part of her Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy, included a survey of student housing around the University of Michigan Ann Arbor in an effort to learn more about the type of students and housing where these conditions exist. Eighty

percent of the respondents reported that they use the front door of their house as their primary means of egress, which means that it is probably the means of egress that they would normally try to use in a fire. Furthermore, since it is used regularly, it is generally accessible as opposed to other means of egress, such as a back or side door, which may be obstructed by debris, trash, storage or snow.

Typically, it is difficult to definitely determine the cause of the fire in these situations since there are few ignition sources that may be present on an exterior porch such as electrical, portable heaters, candles, etc. This often leaves ignition sources such as careless disposal of smoking materials or cooking on a gas or barbecue grill, as the primary culprits in these incidents.

Brow identified 55 streets with these conditions within a three-mile radius of the university and she found 259 pieces of upholstered furniture on front porches. When she did a survey of 127 students, she asked them what was the source of the furniture.

Left by previous tenant	86
Donated by family or friend	40
Trash picked	16
Don't know	3

So it would appear that in Ann Arbor that a vast majority of the furnishings came with the house when a new tenant rented it which is probably a situation found in other college communities.

Strategies

Combating this problem can take several different approaches. One is regulating the presence of combustible furniture through ordinances while another involves educating the occupants and landlords as to the dangers.

Columbia, Missouri, put an ordinance in place in 1991. "It wasn't a fire issue at that point in time," reported Steven Sapp, fire marshal with the Columbia Fire Department. "What was happening was that we were looking at a lot of off-campus housing and seeing that they weren't being maintained as well as some of the adjacent properties that were owner occupied. It has been used to clear off the combustibles from front porches and decks." This ordinance origi-

nally started out in response to aesthetic problems but it also provides a fire safety component as well.

Columbia takes a very proactive approach to addressing issues within neighborhoods by forming a Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) that travels through the neighborhoods looking for issues that need to be addressed. "Areas that are problems with deficiencies, crimes and arson fires, every week the NRT goes into these areas to look for these issues and follow up on them to get corrective action," said Sapp. "Several areas are predominantly off-campus student housing and are within the NRT and problems are caught very quickly before the fire department even finds out it is a problem."

The NRT is run by the Office of Neighborhood Services which is a joint effort that includes health inspectors, a prosecuting attorney, a member of the building department and a law enforcement officer. Through this collaborative effort, the NRT is able to get action quickly and often without having to resort to drastic measures.

"The compliance rate is over 90% just from the notice of violation," observed Sapp. If they do have to go to the next step, "A letter from the prosecutor (from the Office of Neighborhood Services) generally takes care of the problem."

Such a proactive approach has the end result of safer neighborhoods. "We don't see a lot of exterior fires that involve upholstered furniture," reports Sapp. "Because we have such good proactive enforcement, that is one of the reasons that we don't see these type of problems."

As an aside, Sapp mentioned that they do have a problem with garages being turned into "party rooms" complete with furniture and bars. Sapp reported that they can regulate these type of situations and often team up with the police department to look for these illegal garages.

Another community that has addressed this problem through an ordinance is Boulder, Colorado. Unlike Columbia, the Boulder ordinance only addresses specific problem areas around the University of Colorado. "We didn't feel there was a need to have a citywide ordinance," said David Lowrey, fire marshal for Boulder Fire Rescue. "You get into some of the other neighborhoods where there isn't a large collegiate population and

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there isn't a problem."

When this ordinance was first proposed over 14 years ago, the main driving force behind it was fire safety. During celebrations, the students were taking the couches from the porches and setting them on fire in the streets, but this ordinance has had a dramatic impact on reducing these type of incidents. In just the past 12 months there have been only 14 fires, citywide, involving outside furniture. When it was first implemented, there was very little resistance from the students and "the landlords are 100% behind it," reported Lowrey.

East Lansing, Michigan, also has an ordinance that came about "because we had a proliferation of couches and furniture sitting on lawns and porches and it was not only a fire problem, but a nuisance," said East Lansing Fire Marshal Bob Pratt. "After a rain the mold would set in, they would be put on

the curb and then were a target for fires."

The ordinance, which was implemented in 2004, had some opposition, according to Pratt, but nothing such as what surfaced in Ann Arbor from the student community.

Education

Education is a key component in both Columbia and Boulder. In Boulder, the fire department has a "move out" education program where students that are moving out of the residence halls and into off-campus housing learn about what is expected of them and the ordinance regarding furniture is one of the areas that is covered.

Similarly, in Columbia, education is a vital part of the solution as well.

"For code enforcement to work, education is a key part of it along with engineering and evaluation," observed Sapp. "Without edu-

cation it is like a stool without one leg."

Addressing the issue of combustible furniture and other material on porches can make a significant change in the potential for a fire that would lead to a fatality or injury. A number of communities across the nation have taken action, but there are still many others where this is an issue. Ann Arbor learned a tragic lesson with the death of Renden LeMasters. "These are incredible fire hazards," said Chamberlain.

A compilation of campus-related incidents where the area of origin was a porch or deck is included in this issue of Campus Firewatch. A copy is also available online at www.campus-firewatch.com along with photographs taken of typical conditions around a Massachusetts campus.



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

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Igot2kno for Fall 2010 - Continued from Page 1



Wilmington Assistant Fire Chief Frank Blackley being interviewed for a segment of igot2kno 2.0.



Kinsey Pilkington talking about the fire that claimed the life of his brother, Cody.

- Cooking
- Alcohol
- Egress

Since this version is going to be totally Internet-based, it is important to develop strategies that will engage and draw in the students. Games are where today's students spend a great deal of their time and this is a method that will be used to bring them to the site. Three games are being developed focusing on each of the topical area where the student will have an opportunity to learn about how to avoid some of the common missteps and problems that can lead to serious, and potentially fatal, outcomes.

But how to get the students to come there in the first place?

Let's admit it – fire safety is not the first (or perhaps even second or third...) thing on a student's mind so a strong incentive is needed for the students to go to igot2kno in the first place. It was decided that a sweepstakes with prizes such as iPods, pizza, smoke alarms, flameless candles and other items would serve to draw in the students – especially the grand prize of a new iPad. By going through each of the game modules the student will be entered into the sweepstakes and if they should complete all three, then they are entered into the grand prize.

Using igot2kno 2.0 on your campus

igot2kno, both 1.0 and 2.0, are both designed to be integrated into a campus's fire safety education programs. The current version, and the new one as well, has the

ability for students to register, take a pre-test, watch an educational video and then take a post test to evaluate what they learned. Schools can register with the People's Burn Foundation to have their name listed on the web site and when students register they select the appropriate school. Schools then can receive regular reports on the performance of the students.

Some institutions are mandating that the students complete this training as part of a comprehensive fire safety education campaign while others are using it as either an optional one or doing it on a smaller scale, such as with just the Greek system. The benefit of using igot2kno is that it is essentially free "training in a box" that can be easily delivered to the students.

Developing igot2kno 2.0

To develop igot2kno 2.0, a team of subject matter experts from campuses and fire departments across the nation was assembled to provide input into the content. Their creativity, coupled with the information from the national survey, helped to focus the project on the three topical areas. However, it won't be limited just to these three and will also include information important to students in a variety of other areas including smoke alarms, sprinklers, smoking and much more.

Video is a great way to send messages and this will be a key part of igot2kno 2.0, just as it was in the first version. We just returned from North Carolina where we spent days shooting interviews with families who had lost children in campus-related fires and fire fighters and fire chiefs who had to deal with these incidents. These will

create some very compelling stories and allow for additional material that will add even more powerful messages to all of the topics we will be covering in the web site.

In addition, video of mockups of student rooms burning up will be shot as well, providing dramatic footage of what can happen to their belongings in such a short time and how effective sprinklers are in controlling a fire.

The site is going to be customizable so that each school can tailor it to their specific needs or protocols. It is also going to include communications tools such as forums and blogs that will allow for an exchange of information among users. An implementation guide will be provided to assist in integrating igot2kno 2.0 into your existing campus fire safety education programs.

Bottom line

This will be a powerful training tool for you to use. It is free. It will include incentives that you can promote to your students for them to become involved. It will provide you with feedback and reporting on your student's progress if you want it. It will also help you meet the requirements of the new Higher Education Opportunity Act which requires you to report your fire safety education efforts.

And it will be available this summer for Fall 2010.

If you want to receive updates on igot2kno, visit www.campus-firewatch.com and sign up on our home page – and see you this fall!



Firelog: Off-campus porch and deck fires

The following is a compilation of incidents identified by Campus Firewatch since January 2000 where the area of origin has been on porches or decks. Since this information is gathered by monitoring news services, and not all fires are reported as involving students, the number of actual fires is probably higher than these listed.

December 7, 2001
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, Alabama
Greek-Fraternity

A fire was started in a couch that was on the porch of a fraternity. The early morning fire is being treated as arson, and is the second fire within a week. The fraternity was unoccupied at the time of the fire.

March 20, 2002
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia
Off-campus

A fire destroyed a house occupied by eight students. It is believed the fire started in a couch on the front porch at approximately 4:00 a.m.

April 13, 2003
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio
Off-campus fatal

On Sunday, April 13, one of the worst campus fire tragedies in recent history occurred. Five students were killed in an early morning off-campus house fire.

According to fire officials, the fire occurred in a three story, wood-frame building (two stories plus an occupied attic). The building was normally occupied by 13 students, but it is not clear as to how many people were in the building at the time of the fire. The fire broke out after a birthday party for one of the victims that had been held earlier in the evening.

The fire department received the call from a passerby at 4:05 a.m. Upon arrival, they found heavy fire involvement on the first floor, which stopped crews from initially entering the building. After the fire was knocked down crews were able to enter the building. Three victims were rescued from the upper floors. Unfortunately, five people died in the fire from smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning. The coroner

reported that it appeared they were attempting to escape from the fire when they were overcome.

The building was equipped with single-station smoke alarms that were operating upon arrival of the fire department. It was not equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

According to Battalion Chief Futz from the Columbus Division of Fire, the cause of the fire was determined to be incendiary, and the area of origin was on the exterior front porch of the house. At this time, no suspects have been arrested.

This fire is the largest loss of life in an off-campus occupancy recorded by Campus Firewatch since we started tracking these fires in January 2000. It equals the number of students killed at the University of North Carolina fraternity fire in 1996.

Of the five students killed, two were men from Ohio State University and three were women from Ohio University. The three women were members of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority

Alan Schlessman, 21, sophomore, Ohio State University

Andrea Dennis, 20, junior, Ohio University

Kyle Raulin, 20, Ohio State University

Christine Wilson, 19, sophomore, Ohio University

Erin DeMarco, 19, sophomore, Ohio University

April 28, 2003
Wesleyan University
Middleton, Connecticut
Residence hall

An early morning fire caused extensive damage to a three-story Victorian home used for faculty housing. The fire occurred on the rear porch of the building at approximately 4:00 a.m. All of the occupants of the house were able to escape without injury. The fire was considered suspicious.

September 20, 2003
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Off-campus fatal

A fire that started on the porch of a two-story, wood frame duplex claimed the lives of three students. The fire was reported at 4:51 a.m. The three students died of smoke inhalation. The three students that died were Amanda Speckien, Brian Heiden and Elizabeth Wencl.

June 16, 2004
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Off-campus

A fire at 4:00 a.m. destroyed a three-story house, injuring several university football players, a female basketball player, and two firefighters. At least 12 people were in the house when the fire started. The fire might have started on a couch located on the porch before spreading to the rest of the house. The house value was estimated at \$300,000, with contents estimated at \$100,000. Cause of the fire remains under investigation.

September 24, 2004
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan
Off-campus

Up to 12 people were left homeless after fire swept through an off-campus apartment complex, which destroyed two units. At 5:40 a.m., fire blazed through an apartment building near Michigan State University. One student resident of the duplex tried to jump from the second story balcony on the backside of the building. He hurt his back and was taken to the hospital. The fire started in a couch on a porch, but investigators still are trying to determine exactly how. The duplex affected by the fire has been totally destroyed. The 8-10 people living inside lost all of their possessions. Officials also are investigating whether the individual units housed more than the four occupants they were licensed for, since six of the eight units had evidence of five people in each unit.

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March 3, 2005
Bloomsburg University
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania
Off-campus

Fire broke out at 10:10 a.m. in an off-campus duplex which housed a total of nine students. The building was completely destroyed, but no one was injured. The university will assist students with temporary housing. The fire started on the back porch of one unit, and while the cause of the blaze has not yet been determined, the grill had been used that morning, and a table and cardboard boxes were stored on that same porch. Siding melted on a neighboring home, adding to the damage. An estimate is not yet available.

April 30, 2005
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland
Off-campus fatal

A fire at 4:30 claimed the life of one University of Maryland student and critically injured another. According to officials, the fire started on the exterior porch of a house located one block from the University campus. It extended up the exterior and then into the interior of the building. There were six occupants at the time of the fire and four were able to escape safely. One individual on the second floor was forced to jump and was transported to an area burn center due to burn injuries, smoke inhalation and injuries sustained by the fall.

Fire fighters arrived on the scene and located another individual on the second floor. He was removed from the building in respiratory arrest and transported to a nearby hospital where he died.

The building had been inspected several months prior to the fire and there were working smoke alarms. It is unknown if there were working smoke alarms at the time of the fire, and according to a fire official since the fire appeared to have started on the exterior, extended vertically and then into the building, the presence of smoke alarms may not have had a factor on the fire detection. Several years later, a suspect was arrested and charged with starting the fire on the front porch.

August 21, 2005
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester, Massachusetts
Greek – Fraternity

An early morning fire forced the evacuation of the occupants of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. The fire started on the front porch and quickly spread up the exterior of the two-story building. Cars parked next to the building were also ignited by the fire. The interior spread of the fire was stopped by the activation of a number of sprinkler heads, and the fire damage was limited to the exterior of the building and some minor structural damage to the roof. There was extensive smoke and water damage to the interior of the building.

September 22, 2005
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Off-campus

A University of Michigan student was seriously injured in a fire that is believed to have started in a couch on the front porch of a three-story house. A propane tank exploded during the fire, causing it to spread into the interior of the building. There were five occupants in the building at the time of the fire and were able to escape out of the back door. The fifth occupant received burns while trying to escape the fire and was forced to jump out of a second-story window.

September 30, 2005
East Stroudsburg University
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania
Off-campus

A fire that broke out at 5:45 a.m. displaced nine people, including four East Stroudsburg University students. The fire in the 2-1/2-story building reportedly started on the front porch and caused significant damage to the building.

October 3, 2005
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia
Greek – Fraternity

A fire that broke out at approximately 1:45 am in the Zeta Psi fraternity did significant damage to the building. According to press reports, the fire appeared to have started on the porch. The cause of the fire is considered suspicious at this time.

October 25, 2005
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma
Off-campus

A house occupied by students from Oklahoma State University was destroyed in an early-morning fire. The fire, which started on the porch, spread to the interior of the house through the windows. After alerting his roommates, one of the occupants attempted to extinguish the fire using a fire extinguisher. When he was not able to get it to operate, he attempted to use a second one. By this time, the fire had grown too large and he evacuated and then called 911 to report the fire. When the fire department arrived on the scene they were able to extinguish the fire within fifteen minutes.

December 1, 2005
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana
Off-campus

A fire that started in a couch located outside of the house broke out at approximately 8:40 am. Two students that live in the house were awakened by someone yelling that their house was on fire. It was reported that the porch was on fire when the fire department arrived and that damage was limited to the porch area.

February 20, 2006
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Off-campus

Seven students have been displaced by a fire that seriously damaged their off-campus house. At approximately 1:15 a.m. the only occupant of the house was alerted by neighbors yelling that the house was on fire. The fire originated in the three-season porch and spread to the interior of the house. The smoke alarms in the house were disabled at the time of the fire.

April 2, 2006
Penn State
State College, Pennsylvania
Off-campus

A fire in a duplex started on the exterior porch. A passerby saw the fire at approximately 4:00 a.m. and alerted all of the occupants to the fire who were able to escape.

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The building was completely destroyed by the fire, according to fire officials.

May 13, 2006
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York
Off-campus fatal

A fire at approximately 3:15 a.m. in an off-campus, 2-1/2 story wood frame duplex killed a 22-year-old senior. The fire started in a bucket on the front porch and spread to the interior of the building. The occupant on the first floor of one side of the duplex became aware of the fire and started yelling, which woke the occupant on the top floor. The occupants in the adjacent duplex were awakened by the activation of their smoke alarms.

The two male occupants then attempted unsuccessfully to extinguish the fire by using a blanket and trying to cover it with sand. When fire fighters arrived on the scene, the front of the building was fully involved. They were able to knock down the bulk of the fire and make entry into the building. The victim was found on the floor in his second-story bedroom.

The cause of the fire was determined to be accidental and is most probably careless disposal of smoking materials. The fire occurred after a party which had broken up at approximately 2:00 a.m.

Victim Ian Alberta, 22, Senior
Hometown: Ithaca, New York

September 15, 2006
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska
Off-campus

An early morning fire caused \$40,000 in damage in an off-campus duplex. The fire, which started on the porch which had a grill and a couch on it, forced the occupants to flee into the attic and then cross over to the other side of the house to escape the fire.

February 8, 2007
University of Wisconsin
Oshkosh, Wisconsin
Off-campus

An off-campus house fire has displaced three students from the University of

Wisconsin-Oshkosh. The fire was caused when one of the occupants carelessly disposed of a cigarette that landed on a couch on the porch. The couch was ignited and the fire spread to the house, causing extensive damage.

March 16, 2007
Boston University
Brookline, Massachusetts
Off-campus fatal

An early-morning fire in an off-campus apartment rented by students from Boston University claimed the life of one man.

In an interview with Campus Firewatch, Brookline Fire Department Deputy Chief Stephen Sweeney reported that the fire started on the third floor rear porch. It is believed that the cause of the fire was related to the use of a charcoal grill that had been used at approximately 1:30 a.m., the morning of the fire.

The fire was reported to the BFD at approximately 5:45 a.m., and fire department units were on the scene within four minutes and reported heavy fire coming from the rear of the third floor. Boston University police were on the scene prior to the arrival of the fire department, and occupants reported that there was one person unaccounted for. This information was relayed by BU police to the first arriving units.

Fire fighters advanced a handline to the third floor where they encountered heavy smoke and fire. They extinguished the fire and found the victim in a bedroom.

Two of the occupants reported that they were alerted to the fire by the activation of the apartment's interconnected smoke alarms. As they exited, they alerted several of the other occupants in the apartment, including the victim. It was thought that the victim was following them out of the building, but as they were exiting it was realized that he was not following them. The occupants attempted to re-enter the building but were driven back by the heat and smoke.

When fire fighters found the victim he was in the bedroom by the door of a closet. It is believed that he became disoriented and believed that the closet was the door out of the bedroom.

Sweeney estimates that the fire caused over \$500,000 damage to the building and contents. There was extensive fire damage to

the third floor apartment with smoke and water damage throughout the building.

The apartment was occupied by students from Boston University. The victim was a student at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania.

Derek Crowl, 19
Elysburg, Pennsylvania

March 31, 2007
South Dakota State University
Brookings, South Dakota
Greek – fraternity

The Sigma Phi Delta house was destroyed by a fire that started in a couch on the porch and then spread into the structure. Seven students were displaced by the fire.

October 2, 2007
Cowley College
Arkansas City, Kansas
Off-campus fatal

A fire in an off-campus house claimed the life of one student, Eli Hildebrand. According to Arkansas City Fire Chief Randy Leach, the fire started on the front screened-in porch. When fire crews arrived on the scene the entire front of the house was fully involved. The victim was found inside the front door. Smoke alarms in the building had activated, alerting the occupants to the fire. The cause of the fire was determined to be careless disposal of smoking materials on the front porch.

October 28, 2007
University of South Carolina and Clemson University
Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina
Off-campus fatal

Six students from the University of South Carolina and one from Clemson University were killed in a fire at a vacation beach home in Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina. The cause of the fire is believed to be careless disposal of smoking materials on an exterior porch.

Six people were able to escape, some by jumping from upper story windows to the canal below.

Six of the seven victims had elevated blood alcohol levels ranging from 0.16 to 0.29. Lauren Mahon did not have any trace of alcohol.

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Justin Anders, 19
Travis Calen, 19
Lauren Mahon, 18
Cassidy Pendley, 18
William Rhea, 18
Allison Walden, 19
Emily Yelton, 18

November 18, 2007
University of Wisconsin – Madison
Madison, Wisconsin
Off-campus fatal

One person was killed in an off-campus house fire. According to fire officials, the fire was caused by the careless disposal of smoking materials in a couch on the front porch. There were no working smoke alarms in the building at the time of the fire. Five other students were displaced by the fire. The victim, who had been a student at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse but was taking a semester off, was visiting his brother, who was a student at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Peter Talen, 23.

April 15, 2008
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Off-campus

A fire in an off-campus house at approximately 7:00 p.m. was caused by embers from a hookah pipe igniting a couch on the porch. The fire caused extensive damage to the first floor and there was heavy smoke damage to the second and third stories. Five students were displaced by the fire.

May 5, 2008
Colorado State University
Greely, Colorado
Greek – Fraternity

Improper disposal of smoking materials caused \$45,000 to a fraternity. The fire broke out on the back porch of the building and spread to the building and contents.

March 14, 2009
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia
Greek – Fraternity sprinkler save

The cause of the fire at the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at Washington and Lee University

is still under investigation. Fraternity members were quickly evacuated from the house which started on an exterior porch before spreading into the building. The blaze was brought under control by the sprinkler system

March 27, 2009
Niagara University
Niagara Falls, New York
Off-campus

An early-morning fire in an off-campus house displaced three students. The fire started in a second-story porch and caused \$45,000 in damage.

September 14, 2009
Duke University
Durham, North Carolina
Off-campus

An early morning fire in an off-campus apartment complex destroyed two townhouses. The fire started on the back porch and extended to an adjacent unit. It is believed the cause of the fire may have been a charcoal grill.

December 13, 2009
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia
Off-campus house

Three College of William and Mary students were displaced from their off-campus rental home over the weekend after their back porch caught fire. The fire was quickly extinguished and was isolated to the porch. No one was injured in the fire.

January 25, 2010
Ithaca College
Ithaca, New York
Off-campus

Seven people were displaced by a fire in a 30-unit apartment building. The fire broke out on the second floor porch and damaged several units.

January 2, 2010
University of North Carolina Wilmington
Wilmington, North Carolina
Off-campus fatal

A woman who had graduated just weeks before was killed in an off-campus apart-

ment fire. The fire originated on the deck and is believed to be caused by either a grill or careless disposal of smoking materials. Even though the woman had graduated, she was still living in the same apartment she had been in while attending school and was in the processing of moving to start a new job.



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.

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

See you there!

WANTED-AUTHORS!

Do you have an article that you would like to write for Campus Firewatch?

We're always looking for articles on what is happening at campuses and in communities across the country.

Contact us at ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com and let's talk!

Couch Ordinances

East Lansing, Michigan

302.10 Outdoor storage. Outdoor storage of an appliance, firewood, furniture or building materials is prohibited except when the material is properly covered and screened from view. Furniture which is not intended or designed for outdoor use shall not be placed outdoors or on exterior balconies, porches, decks, landings, or other areas exposed to the weather.

Columbia, Missouri

Sec. 11-327. Display of Certain Items Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for the owner or occupant of any residential premises within the city to allow any of the following items to remain on such premises, for longer than 48 hours, in any location outside of the residence which can be viewed from a ground location off the premises:

appliances, bedding, bottles, boxes, broken glass, cans, cardboard, cartons, furniture manufactured for indoor use only, household appliances, jars, lumber and building supply materials that are not neatly stacked, machine parts, motor vehicle parts, pallets, paper, plumbing fixtures, rags, scrap metal, tire rims, tires, water heaters. (Ord. No. 13000, § 1, 6-17-91)

Boulder, Colorado

5-4-16 Outdoor Furniture Restriction.

(a) No person shall place, use, keep, store, or maintain any upholstered furniture not manufactured for outdoor use, including, without limitation, upholstered chairs, upholstered couches, and mattresses, in any outside areas located in the following places:

- (1) In any front yard;
- (2) In any side yard;
- (3) In any rear yard or other yard that is adjacent to a public street.

However, an alley shall not be considered a "public street" for the purpose of this subsection; or

(4) On any covered or uncovered porch located in or adjacent to any of the yards described in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this section.

(b) The provisions of this section shall apply within the following described area: Those portions of the University Hill neighborhood bordered by Baseline Road on the south, Arapahoe Road on the north, Broadway on the east, and, on the west by the western boundary lines of those properties located on the west side of Ninth Street.

(c) For the purpose of this section, yards are defined as follows:

(1) The terms "front yard," "rear yard," and "side yard" refer to the open space between buildings and property lines at the front, rear, and sides of a property, respectively.

(2) A side yard extends the full length of a lot as if a line running along the edge of a building was extended to intersect with the rear property line.

(3) On a corner lot, the open space adjacent to the shorter street right-of-way shall be considered the front yard.

(4) The rear yard is that yard located on the opposite side of the lot from the front yard.

(d) The interior of any fully enclosed porch (including, without limitation, a porch enclosed by screening material) that cannot be accessed from outside except through a door that can be locked shall not be considered an outside area for the purpose of this section.

(e) Placement of upholstered furniture on balconies or porches located on the second floor, or any floor above the second floor, of a building is not precluded by the provisions of this section.

(f) The following shall constitute specific defenses to any alleged violation of this provision:

(1) That such furniture was placed in an outside location in order to allow it to be moved during a move of a resident or residents or removed as part of a trash or recycling program on a day scheduled for such moving or removal.

(2) That such furniture was located in a yard other than a front yard and was placed in such a manner that it could not be seen from ground level by a person located on a public right-of-way (excluding public alleys) and that it was not visible by such a person unless that person took extraordinary steps such as climbing a ladder or peering over a screening fence in order to achieve a point of vantage.

(3) That such furniture was temporarily placed in an outside location in order that it be offered for sale at a yard or garage sale if each of the following conditions exists:

(A) The furniture is located in an outside location only during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

(B) The person attempting to sell the furniture, or that person's agent, is outside during the period of the yard or garage sale in order to monitor the sale.

(C) A sign is placed on or near the furniture indicating that it is for sale.

(D) This defense shall not apply if upholstered furniture is located in an outside location for more than two days in any six-month period.

(g) If the city manager finds that any upholstered furniture exists on any property in violation of this section, the manager may require that the owner and the lessee, agent, occupant, or other person in possession or control of the property correct the violation and

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bring the property into conformity with this section, using the following procedure:

(1) The manager shall notify the owner and the lessee, agent, occupant, or other person in possession or control of the property that such persons have seven days from the date of the notice to make such corrections. Notice under this subsection is sufficient if it is deposited in the mail, first class, to the last known owner of the property on the records of the Boulder County Assessor and to the last known address of the lessee, agent, occupant, or person in possession or control of the property.

(2) If the person notified fails to correct the violation as required by the notice prescribed by paragraph (g)(1) of this section, the manager may correct the violation by removing and disposing of the upholstered furniture and charge the costs thereof, plus an additional amount of \$25.00 for administrative costs, to the owner and to the lessee, agent, occupant, or other person in possession and control of the property.

(3) If any property owner fails or refuses to pay when due any charge imposed under this section, the manager may, in addition to taking other collection remedies, certify due and unpaid charges, including interest, to the Boulder County Treasurer to be levied against the person's property for collection by the county in the same manner as delinquent general taxes upon such property are collected as provided by section 2-2-12, "City Manager May Certify Taxes, Charges, and Assessments to County Treasurer for Collection," B.R.C. 1981.

(Ordinance Nos. 7125 (2002); 7360 (2004))



Parents are urged to help their children select off-campus housing after fatal fire

A fire this month in Ann Arbor, Michigan, that claimed the life of a student at Eastern Michigan University involved a couch, trash and other combustibles on the front porch— a scenario that has been seen in other deadly fires across the nation. Students are now looking for off-campus houses to live in for the fall semester and parents who have lost children in campus-related fires are asking other parents to be involved in helping them to choose housing.

"Selecting a place to live involves more than just being close to campus, low rent and room-mates," said Gail Minger, president of the Michael H. Minger Foundation. Mrs. Minger, who lost her son, Michael, in a residence hall arson fire, leads a coalition of other parents who have lost children in campus-related fires. "Your child doesn't always look at some of the most important features of a house that could possibly turn it into a trap — a death trap."

A number of fires have started on porches where couches and other combustible furniture can commonly be found in college communities across the nation. The fire, often started by careless disposal of smoking materials, breaks out in the middle of the night and is a roaring inferno by the time it spreads into the house, trapping and possibly killing the students sleeping inside. Because of this danger, a number of communities have banned couches and similar furniture from being used on porches.

"This is just one of the things that parents can help their children with when looking at off-campus housing," said Ed Comeau, publisher of Campus Firewatch. "Since January 2000, 140 people have died in campus-related fires with over four out of five of these deaths occurring in off-campus housing. There are some simple steps that parents can take to help improve their child's chances of surviving a fire."

- Is there a couch or other combustible furniture on the front porch? A study has shown that most of the time this furniture has been left by previous tenants. It should have been removed by the landlord prior to renting the house.
- Are there two ways out of the house? If your child is living in an upper floor, the second way out might be through a window — does the window work and is it large enough to climb through? Providing them with an escape ladder could save his or her life. The same applies for basement apartments — are there two ways out and if your child has to use a window to get out, is it big enough?
- Does the house have smoke alarms? If not, the landlord should install them. Smoke alarms should be on every floor and in every bedroom. Interconnected smoke alarms help to alert all the occupants to a fire and there are now wireless smoke alarms that can be easily installed. If the landlord won't do it, buy them and install them yourself when you are helping to move in your child. Smoke alarms are inexpensive compared to the life they can save.
- Tell your son or daughter that they should NEVER disable a smoke alarm. So often, after a fatal fire, investigators find the smoke alarms without batteries in them. Studies are showing that photoelectric smoke alarms, which are commonly available, are less likely to be disabled and will be working when needed — during a fire.
- Automatic fire sprinklers are the most effective method of controlling a fire when it breaks out and saving lives. Communities across the nation are beginning to require these systems in newer homes, but unfortunately off-campus student housing is so often in older buildings. Look for buildings equipped with these life-saving systems.

"There is so much more to know than just these short tips," said Kim Wencil. "I lost my daughter, Liz, in an off-campus fire. Helping your child through school is much more than grades, tests and studying. It is knowing how to live, and live safely. What they learn about fire safety in college is something they will need to know for the rest of their lives."

A compilation of campus-related fires (2000 to present) where the fire's area of origin was a porch or deck is available at the Campus Firewatch web site along with photographs taken of typical conditions around a Massachusetts campus.



CAMPUS Fire Log

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

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

March 13, 2010

West Virginia University

**Morgantown, West Virginia
Riot**

Fires broke out in the vicinity of off-campus student housing after WVU's win against Georgetown University in the Big East Tournament. Approximately 27 fires were set.

March 18, 2010

University of Georgia

**Athens, Georgia
Residence Hall – sprinkler save**

A fire broke out at 10:30 am in an occupied residence hall room. The occupants of the room were asleep at the time but were able to escape safely. The fire was controlled by the activation of the building's automatic fire sprinkler system and fire damage was limited to one room.

March 25, 2010

Washington University

**St. Louis, Missouri
Residence hall**

A microwave caught fire on the second floor of a residence hall. There was no evidence of burnt food in the microwave and the cause of the fire is unknown at this time. The fire was controlled by a police officer using a fire extinguisher.

March 28, 2010

**Edinboro University of
Pennsylvania**

**Edinboro, Pennsylvania
Off-campus**

A fire broke out in an off-campus apartment at approximately noon. The fire started on the first floor in a commercial occupancy and displaced eight students.

April 3, 2010

Eastern Michigan University

**Ann Arbor, Michigan
Off-campus fatal**

A student from Eastern Michigan University was killed in an off-campus fire in Ann Arbor, Michigan. According to the university, 22-year-old Renden LeMasters was killed in the fire. LeMasters was a senior in the College of Technology.

In an interview with Campus Firewatch, Ann Arbor Fire Marshal Kathleen Chamberlain reported that the fire was reported at approximately 5:30 a.m. and started in the area of the front porch which contained upholstered furniture, trash and other combustibles. The fire, which was detected by a passerby, then spread into the interior of the building through a front dormer window and two doors which were left open when the occupants escaped from the fire. The victim

was found in front of the building by the first arriving fire department personnel. The cause of the fire is under investigation and has not been determined at this time.

The building is a two-story, wood-frame, building that had been divided into three units located in the basement, first floor and second floor. There were interconnected smoke alarms in the building but no residential fire sprinklers.

April 5, 2010

Boston University

**Boston, Massachusetts
Academic**

An electrical transformer caught fire on the roof of a classroom building at 4:30 p.m. No injuries were reported.

April 5, 2010

Bishop State Community College

**Mobile, Alabama
Administration**

The old archives building was heavily damaged by a fire, causing \$60,000 in damage. The cause of the fire is suspicious.

April 5, 2010

University of Washington

**Seattle, Washington
Riot**

During a power failure, students lit a bonfire using gasoline, mattresses, bed frames, couches and other pieces of furniture. Nearby Greek houses played music and others set off fireworks. When power was restored after midnight, police officers in riot gear dispersed the crowd. The Seattle Fire Department was then able to extinguish the fire.

April 5, 2010

SUNY Fredonia

**Fredonia, New York
Off-campus**

A fire in an off-campus apartment displaced 20 students and destroyed all of their belongings. The fire broke out just before 9:00 p.m. and the cause is believed to be a candle.

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April 6, 2010

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Troy, New York
Academic - Laboratory

A small electrical fire occurred in a laboratory. A piece of machinery was destroyed by the fire. The fire was extinguished by an employee using a fire extinguisher.

April 6, 2010

Mississippi State University
Starkville, Mississippi
Off-campus

Four off-campus apartment buildings were destroyed in a fire that started at approximately 5:00 p.m. The cause of the fire is unknown at press time.

April 9, 2010

Butler University
Indianapolis, Indiana
Off-campus

A fire broke out in an off-campus house occupied by a Butler University student.

April 13, 2010

Montclair State University
Montclair, New Jersey
Residence hall

A residence woke up to a burning odor and found items burning on top of a stove.

April 12, 2010

Montclair State University
Montclair, New Jersey
Dining hall

A grease fire occurred in a diner and was extinguished by the grill's automatic suppression system.

April 13, 2010

Western Oregon University
Monmouth, Oregon
Residence hall

A motor in a mechanical room caught fire and forced the evacuation of the building when a tunnel under the building was filled with smoke.

April 15, 2010

Georgetown University
Washington, DC
Unknown – Sprinkler save

Two maintenance employees were injured when the chemicals they were using to clean a floor were ignited by a floor stripper. The fire was controlled by the activation of the building's automatic fire sprinkler system. Two security officers were treated and released for smoke inhalation.

April 16, 2010

Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan
Off-campus

A fire broke out in an off-campus house and destroyed the building, causing \$500,000 in damage. The fire started in one resident's room and the cause of the fire has not been determined. There were seven or eight occupants in the building at the time of the fire. When the fire alarm system sounded, one of the occupants proceeded to silence the alarm and as a result the fire department had considered filing charges against the individual. The decision was later made to not file charges and have him do community service.

April 16, 2010

University of California Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California
Academic – Library

A fire in a library wing undergoing renovation broke out shortly after 9:00 p.m. There were approximately 100 students in the building at the time and all were evacuated safely.

April 16, 2010

Stanford University
Palo Alto, California
Residence hall –sprinkler save

A candle in a bathroom ignited a cabinet on fire. The fire was controlled by the activation of the building's automatic fire sprinkler system.

April 16, 2010

University of Missouri-Kansas City
Kansas City, Missouri
Residence hall –sprinkler save

An arson fire was set at approximately 4:00 a.m. in a residence hall kitchen area and was controlled by the activation of the building's automatic fire sprinkler system.

April 18, 2010

Mississippi State University
Starkville, Mississippi
Off-campus

Two apartment buildings were significantly damaged by a fire displacing a number of students from the university. This is the second off-campus apartment fire in Starkville in several weeks that has displaced students.

April 18, 2010

Santa Clara University
Santa Clara, California
Off-campus

A fire was reported at 5:48 a.m. in an off-campus house occupied by five students. The students were alerted by the activation of smoke alarms and it was reported that four of the students lost all of their belongings.

April 19, 2010

Dickinson College
Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Academic

A plant dryer caught fire and caused a small amount of damage.

April 20, 2010

University of Nebraska Omaha
Omaha, Nebraska
Academic – Art

A fire caused by careless disposal of smoking materials broke out and forced the evacuation of 300 people from the Arts and Sciences Hall. The building was closed for at least one day as a result of the fire.

LEGISLATION

Update

Federal - H. Res. 167 Campus Fire Safety Month

Summary

This bill recognizes September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

Original Co-Sponsors

- Congressman Bill Pascrell (NJ-8)
- Congressman Joe Wilson (SC-2)

Status

October 6, 2009 Passed by the House of Representatives

Federal - S. Res. 40 Campus Fire Safety Month

Summary

This bill recognizes September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

Original Co-Sponsors

- Senator Frank Lautenberg (NJ)
- Senator Susan Collins (ME)
- Senator Carl Levin (MI)
- Senator Robert Menendez (NJ)
- Senator Bernie Sanders (VT)

Status

August 6, 2009 Passed in the Senate by unanimous consent

Federal - HR 2136 Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act

Summary

This bill will provide matching grants for the installation of sprinklers and other fire suppression or prevention technologies. It does not provide for a dollar amount and the grants would be available for fiscal years 2010 through 2012.

Original Sponsor

- Congresswoman Marcia Fudge (OH-11)
- 63 cosponsors

Status

June 4, 2009 Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness

Federal - Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act

Summary

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

Sponsor

- Representative James Langevin (RI-2)
- 128 co-sponsors

Status

February 25, 2009 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

Continued from previous page

Federal - Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act 2010

Summary

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

Sponsor

- Senator Carper (DE) and
- Senator Collins (ME)
- 3 co-sponsor

Status

January 22, 2010 Referred to Senate Committee on Finance

Massachusetts - House Bill 2221 An Act relative to automatic fire sprinklers

Summary

This bill will remove a long-standing exemption for sprinklers in fraternities, sororities and residence halls in existing buildings.

Sponsor

- Representative John Fresolo, 16th Worcester
- Representative Jon Bineienda, 17th Worcester
- Representative Cory Atkins, 14th Middlesex

Status

June 25, 2009 A hearing was held before the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Federal - S 1791 Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones Fire Suppression Demonstration Incentive Program

Summary

This bill will provide matching grants for the installation of sprinklers and other fire suppression or prevention technologies. It does not provide for a dollar amount and the grants would be available for fiscal years 2010 through 2012.

Sponsor

- Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
- 3 co-sponsors

Status

10/15/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Federal - Campus Fire Safety Education Act of 2010

Summary

The purpose of this Act is to help provide fire safety education and training to students attending institutions of higher education.

Sponsor

- Representative Bill Pascrell (NJ-8)
- 5 co-sponsors

Status

3/22/2010 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Federal - Campus Fire Safety Education Act of 2010

Summary

The purpose of this Act is to help provide fire safety education and training to students attending institutions of higher education.

Sponsor

- Senators Frank Lautenberg (NJ) and Robert Menendez (NJ)

Status

3/18/2010 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Guide to resources available at www.campus-firewatch.com

Campus Firewatch continues to build its library of resources that are freely available on its website on its **RESOURCES**. If you have a suggestion or a contribution you would like to make, please drop a note to ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com.

Current Fire Information

There are two key documents that are available for download on this page – the regularly updated Information Sheet and the Campus Firelog Compilation.

The Information Sheet is a brief, two-page summary of current annual fire deaths that have occurred across the country along with a short status report on legislation. The idea behind this is that it will provide people with the most frequently asked for information.

The Campus Firelog is a listing of all of the fatal student-related fires identified by Campus Firewatch since January 2000. As of this date, there have been 125 fire deaths compiled.

A map is also posted showing the location of these fire deaths with a vast majority of them occurring in the eastern half of the country.

Education Resources

Student views and attitudes towards burn and fire safety - This is a landmark study that was done in partnership between Campus Firewatch and the People's Burn Foundation. It provided a glimpse into the student psyche when it came to their perception of fire safety and it also provided invaluable information about how they get their information in today's electronic age. This report is extremely useful when developing fire safety programs that will effectively reach a targeted demographic – today's students.

Live burn mockup plans - More schools across the country are using the idea of building and burning mockups of student rooms in the middle of campus to demonstrate the speed with which a fire can grow and spread as well as the effectiveness of sprinklers in controlling a fire. The plans for building these mockups, along with tips for conducting a burn, are available online.

Videos of mockup burns - A picture is worth a thousand words, and with the introduction of youtube it is now possible to showcase the effectiveness of these burns through these videos that are available online.

Wikipedia - For those that aren't familiar with it, Wikipedia is an online, collaborative encyclo-

pedia. It has resulted in a number of other projects, one of which is Wikibooks, which is the same concept but for textbooks. Campus Firewatch has started writing a book on campus fire safety, and here is your opportunity to contribute to it!

Legislation

Legislative Matrix - One of the areas that Campus Firewatch has been working aggressively in over the years is legislation at both the Federal and state levels. In the U.S House and Senate there have been five bills under consideration in this session of Congress. Campus Firewatch maintains a Legislative Matrix that lists all of the 535 Members of Congress and their positions on the bills. This matrix also includes a "contact me" link that you can click on to send your Representative or Senator an email asking for their support.

Campus Fire Safety Month - Along with the Federal listing, there is a listing of the states and governors that issued proclamations designating September as Campus Fire Safety Month. This listing also included a "contact me" link for the governor's offices.

Maps of campus fire safety activity across the nation

This page contains two maps, one of the fatal student-related fires identified by Campus Firewatch, and another of student fire safety education and training activities being undertaken by schools across the country. If you have something you would like listed on this map, please send an email to ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com.

Podcasts

Podcast Matrix - Ed Comeau, the publisher of Campus Firewatch, hosts two podcasts on Radio@firehouse.com called Campus Firewatch Radio and Fire Marshal's Corner. Over 30 interviews on a wide range of topics have been listened to or downloaded by over 16,000 listeners. You can review the list of interview and click on any one to listen to the full show.

PowerPoint presentations

Ed Comeau does a number of presentations on campus firewatch and the attendees fre-

quently ask for copies of the presentation or for the information in it. The presentation is posted online and will be updated periodically based on events and activities in the world of campus fire safety.

Student housing fire safety ordinances

More communities across the country are starting to adopt ordinances that specifically address student housing fire safety in areas such as smoke detection, sprinklers and egress. This page was created to showcase existing ordinances and provide a template for other communities to use in developing new ones. The reader can download copies of the ordinances, which are also graphically shown on a map.

Video and animations

Flash animations - These are two animations relating to the impact of fire on the environment that can be downloaded and placed on your website. This taps into the student's heightened sense of awareness of "green" issues.

Campus fire safety videos - There are several videos that have been downloaded from Campus Firewatch, including Domenic's Story, The Dana Christmas Story and Graduation: Fatally Denied.

Behind closed-dorm room doors - There is fire-setting behavior that is occurring in residence halls that is being showcased by the students on youtube. Campus Firewatch has created a compilation of these videos which provide an unparalleled look into what is really happening.

Videos of student room mockup burns - More schools across the country are using the mockup burns as effective learning tools. See the videos that have been uploaded onto youtube.

Student related fire incidents - Shortly after many fires occur, video is posted on youtube of the incident. This is an ongoing compilation of these video clips compiled by Campus Firewatch.

