



FIRE SAFETY

Immediate Risks That Affect YOU

Chances are that you currently live or will live off campus in an apartment, duplex, other rental property or Greek housing. These are places where most fatal off-campus related fires occur.

Knowing the risks today could help keep you and your friends safer tomorrow.

Alcohol Consumption:

- One of the four common factors in student related fires is alcohol consumption. (The Center for Campus Fire Safety)
- Victims were under the influence of alcohol in more than 50% of adult fire fatalities that occurred in residential fires across the nation. (The U.S. Fire Administration)
- A study of adults ages 18-25 found that those who went to sleep under the influence of alcohol (.05 Blood Alcohol Content and higher) took nearly twice as long to wake up to a smoke alarm than when they were sober. (*The Effect of Alcohol Upon Response to Fire Alarm Signals*)
- In the same study, over 1/3 of the participants under the influence of alcohol never woke up to the sound of a traditional smoke alarm.

Burning Candles:

- Candle fires cause around \$321 million in damage annually in residential fires. (National Fire Protection Association)
- Residential candle fires claim about 140 lives annually across the U.S. (NFPA)
- The two main factors in residential candle fires include leaving candles unattended and placing them too close to flammable items. (NFPA)

Smoking:

- A recent survey found that 26% of men and 22% of women, ages 18-24, smoke cigarettes regularly. (Centers for Disease Control)
- Abandoned or careless disposal of cigarettes is the leading cause of fire deaths in residences across America, including rental properties. (NFPA)
- Approximately 45% of smoking-material fires start in a bedroom, living/family room or den, and in most cases, ignite bedding or upholstered furniture first. (NFPA)
- More than 60% of adults killed or injured in smoking-material residential fires were either asleep or possibly impaired by alcohol. (NFPA)

Unsafe Housing:

- Living in garages, attics or closets is unsafe and not permitted in San Luis Obispo. To report unsafe housing call: 805-781-7180

It's Up To YOU

You are at a higher risk of fire if..

- ✓ You live in unsprinklered housing.
- ✓ You do not have a working smoke alarm.
- ✓ You do not have a fire extinguisher and/or do not know how to use it.
- ✓ You are under the influence of alcohol.
- ✓ You leave candles unattended or burn them near flammable materials, such as posters, window coverings and bedding.
- ✓ You smoke cigarettes and throw them away carelessly.
- ✓ You plug too many appliances into a single outlet or extension cord.

You can protect yourself if you..

- ✓ Sleep with your bedroom door closed.

Smoke Alarms:

- ✓ Place them in each sleeping room and hallway serving sleeping rooms.
- ✓ Ensure that your residence hall, apartment or house has working smoke alarms.
- ✓ Check the batteries regularly.
- ✓ Don't cover smoke alarms with posters, window coverings or furniture.

Fire Extinguishers:

- ✓ Buy a fire extinguisher and learn how to use it BEFORE a fire breaks out.
- ✓ Regularly check your fire extinguisher to make sure it is fully charged.

Sprinklers:

- ✓ Live in an apartment or residence hall that has a sprinkler system, which significantly increases your chance of surviving a fire.

Candles/Incense:

- ✓ Always extinguish candles before going to bed or leaving the room.
- ✓ Keep candles away from items that could easily catch fire.

Extension Cords:

- ✓ Don't staple extension cords to walls or ceilings.
- ✓ Use UL-listed extension cords and do not plug too many appliances into a single outlet. This could cause them to overload, heat up and catch fire.
- ✓ Don't run extension cords under carpets/doors/through walls or windows.
- ✓ Don't use extension cords outdoors that are not rated for such use.

Cigarettes and Alcohol:

- ✓ Do not leave smoking materials burning; fully extinguish cigarettes when you are through with them.
- ✓ Do not throw cigarette butts in the trash.
- ✓ Search couch and chair cushions for smoldering cigarettes.

If a fire should occur..

- ✓ Close the doors to stop the spread of fire.
- ✓ Pull the building's fire alarm and alert others as you're leaving.
- ✓ Get out of the building immediately. Don't stop to grab your things; they can be replaced but you can't.
- ✓ Call 911 from outside the building.
- ✓ Do not go back inside the building to retrieve any belongings.

**Contact Your Local Fire Department If You
Have Questions On Fire & Life Safety Issues
805-781-7380**

