

September 2010

*Awareness
and
involvement
helps to
ensure
compliance
and the
well-being
of our
campus
community.*

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Director's Welcome

September is National Campus Fire Safety Month. The purpose of fire safety is to protect life and property. Fire safety is achieved through the implementation of various programs including the fire safety code and features in building design and construction, fire protection systems such as sprinklers and fire alarms, and fire prevention activities to prevent or reduce the likelihood of a fire. Fire Safety involves many departments, including Campus Planning Design and Construction, Campus Operations and Maintenance, Campus Residences, University Police, as well as Building Managers and individual departments. The success of fire safety on campus requires the awareness and involvement of the entire campus community, including all students, faculty and staff. Thank you for your support.

Gary Kaczmarczyk, Director - Environmental Health & Safety

September is National Campus Fire Safety Month

Every year college and university students experience a growing number of fire-related emergencies. To help bring attention to this serious concern, September has been designated Campus Fire Safety Month. Fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires, loss of life and destruction of property.

EH&S Fire Marshals have

planned a number of events and activities with the Division of Campus Residences to raise awareness about fire safety on campus, and will be conducting live fire demonstrations, fire extinguisher training, fire safety training, and will hold the annual Fire Prevention Day on Wednesday September 15th.

Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate in fire safety program activities

throughout the year.

Please see the schedule on the last page of the Newsletter for times and locations of events.



Your Campus Fire Marshals - 24/7

EH&S Fire Marshals provide round-the-clock (24/7) coverage and provide emergency response to fires and other emergencies on campus. The Fire Marshals are experienced firefighters and volunteer in their own communities, some serving as Chief and other officers. Fire Marshals have training in Building and Fire Codes, Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, CPR and First

Aid, and have certifications as NYS Code Enforcement Officials and Hazardous Materials Technicians. Fire Marshals perform inspections and coordinate the Annual Fire Inspection to ensure strict compliance with the NYS Fire and Building Code, provide fire safety training, conduct fire drills, perform inspection and testing of all fire detection and suppression systems, review new con-

struction and renovation plans, implement the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program, and provide support for campus events and activities.



Fire Safety in Campus Residences

While the University takes every precaution to ensure your safety from fire, there are things that you can do to prevent fires and protect yourself in the event of a fire in your dorm room. Remember these simple *Do's* and *Don'ts*.

To Report a Fire

If you observe a fire or smoke...

1. Call University Police at 631-632-3333 or dial 911 from any campus phone.
2. If the fire alarm is not ringing, activate the nearest fire alarm pull-station.
3. Evacuate the building (see If the Fire Alarm Sounds).



If the Fire Alarm Sounds

GET OUT, AND STAY OUT! - Everyone must evacuate.

1. Proceed to the door of your room and check it for heat with the back of your hand.
2. If the door is cool, open it slowly and check the hall for smoke and flames.
3. If no smoke or flames, walk carefully and quickly to the nearest exit.
4. If there is smoke, stay low or crawl on the floor to the nearest exit.
5. Do not use the elevator. Use a fire stairway.
6. Leave the building and do not re-enter until an authorized person says it is safe to do so.
7. If you can not evacuate because of heavy smoke, heat or flames, seek shelter in your room or a fire stairway and call University Police at 631-632-3333 or dial 911 from any campus phone.



Prevent Cooking Fires

Cooking is only allowed in designated areas.

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Don't wear loose fitting clothing.
- Clean cooking surfaces to prevent grease build-up.
- Keep towels and pot holders away from hot surfaces.
- Turn pan handles inward to prevent accidental spilling.
- Slide a pan lid over flames to smother a grease or oil fire, then turn off the heat and leave the lid in place until the pan cools. Never carry the pan to the sink or outside; you may spread the fire that way.
- Make sure a dry chemical fire extinguisher is located near the cooking area.
- Never use water or flour on grease fires.
- Close the oven door and shut off the heat to smother an oven or broiler fire.



Prevent False Fire Alarms

When a fire alarm sounds, emergency response plans are activated causing a response by many individuals, including Campus Fire Marshals, University Police, and the local Fire Department. Fire alarms are disruptive, can cause panic and put emergency responders in harms way.



The University has taken steps to ensure that fire alarm systems are appropriately installed and maintained. Many false alarms are caused by smoke and steam from cooking, hair styling, ironing and other activities. Your help is needed to reduce and prevent false fire alarms.

What can you do?

1. Cook safely.
 - Reduce the amount of heat you use to cook.
 - Make sure the exhaust fan above your stove is on and operating.
 - Never leave cooking unattended (see Prevent Cooking Fires).
2. Shower wisely.
 - Limit the use of hot water during showers and the time that you leave hot water running.
 - Give time for steam to dissipate before opening the bathroom door.
3. Style with care.
 - Use hair dryers, flat irons and curling irons in a well ventilated area.
 - Follow safety instructions from the appliance.
4. Do not smoke or use candles in any building.
5. Do not tamper with smoke detectors or other fire alarm equipment.








Fire Safety Tips

- Do not overload outlets with multiple plugs.
- Do not use extension cords.
- Use power strips that have built in circuit breakers.
- Never cover light bulbs with paper or clothing.
- Candles and smoking is not permitted in any building.
- Torchiere-style halogen lamps are strictly forbidden.
- Never bring flammable or other hazardous materials into residence halls.



Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are special pressurized devices that release chemicals or water to put out a fire. You need to select an extinguisher based on the type or class of fire, and follow proper procedures for its use.

Fuel (Type of Material)	Class of Fire	Common Type of Fire Extinguisher	
Ordinary Combustible Examples: Paper, wood, cardboard, and most plastics.		Water or Multi-Purpose Dry Chemical	 2½ Gallon Pressurized Water
Flammable or Combustible Liquids Examples: Gasoline, kerosene, grease and oil.		CO ₂ or Multi-Purpose Dry Chemical	 Multi-Purpose Dry Chemical
Electrical Equipment Examples: Electrical appliances, wiring, circuit breakers and outlets.		CO ₂ or Multi-Purpose Dry Chemical	 Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)
Combustible Metals Examples: Magnesium, titanium, potassium and sodium.		Dry powder (suitable for the specific combustible metal involved)	

To Operate a Fire Extinguisher

- P**ull: Pull the safety pin.
- A**im: Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the flames.
- S**queeze: Squeeze the trigger while holding the extinguisher upright.
- S**weep: Sweep the extinguisher from side to side, covering all areas of the fire with extinguishing agent.

Don't Fight a Fire Unless...

- You call University Police at 631-632-3333 or dial 911 from any campus phone and activate the fire alarm system to warn others first.
 - The fire is small and not spreading
 - You select the correct extinguisher.
 - You know how to use the extinguisher.
 - You have an escape route and can get out fast.
- Note: All fires, regardless of size, must be reported. A Fire Marshal will respond, investigate and replace the used extinguisher.*

Lab Fires

Common causes of lab fires include:

- Improper storage of flammable liquids.
- Keeping chemicals past the expiration dates.
- Drying out non-anhydrous chemicals.
- Spontaneous combustion (ex.: some solvents on towels will self-ignite in the trash).
- Water reactivity (ex.: sodium).
- Faulty electrical wiring & equipment
- Poor housekeeping.



Follow these tips to keep safe:

- Wear 100% cotton or flame resistant lab coats.
- Do not overload outlets with multiple plugs.
- Do not use extension cords.
- Use power strips that have built in circuit breakers.
- Never cover light bulbs with paper or clothing.
- Have an appropriate fire extinguisher and material suitable for the type of material you work with.
- If your clothing is on fire, remember to STOP, DROP and ROLL. Running will cause the flames to spread and also allows the flames into victim's face and respiratory tract (cover your face when you ROLL).
- Never use a fire extinguisher on someone who is on fire. Use the emergency shower.

For more information, please visit the EH&S Laboratory Safety website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/lab/>

