



Fire Safety

Fire Safety is an important topic to think about, especially when you are considering living off- campus. Below are some tips to consider when looking for, and living in, off-campus housing.

Plan Your Escape

- Develop and practice an escape plan from every room in the house.
- Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never to open doors that are hot.
- Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house.
- Get out then call for help.

Smoke Detectors

- All rental properties should be equipped with a smoke detector in every room used for sleeping.
- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home, including the basement, and outside each sleeping area.
- Test detectors every month, following the manufacturer's directions, and replace batteries once a year, or whenever a detector "chirps" to signal low battery power.
- Never "borrow" a smoke detector's battery for another use - a disabled detector can't save your life.
- Replace detectors that are more than 10 years old.

Smoking

- Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths in North America. Smoking in bed or when you are drowsy could be deadly.
- Provide smokers with large, deep non-tip ashtrays and soak butts with water before discarding them.
- Before going to bed or leaving home after someone has been smoking,

check under and around cushions and upholstered furniture for smoldering cigarettes.

Cooking

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. It is also the leading cause of fire injuries.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Clean cooking surfaces regularly to prevent grease buildup which can ignite
- Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles and wear clothes with short, rolled-up or tight- fitting sleeves when you cook.
- Turn pot handles inward on the stove where you can't bump them.
- If grease catches fire in a pan, slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames and turn off the heat. Leave the lid on until cool. NEVER throw water on steaming or burning grease.

Space Heaters

- Keep portable heaters and space heaters at least 3 feet (1 meter) from anything that can burn.
- Keep children and pets away from heaters, and never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to bed.

Electrical Fire Prevention

- Do not overload extension cords or power strips.
- Do not run electrical cords under rugs or over nails.
- If an electrical appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately, then have it serviced before using it again.
- Replace any electrical cord that is cracked or frayed.
- Don't tamper with your fuse box or use improper-size fuses.