

# On and Off-Campus Fire Safety

September 2008

## Recent

### Fire

#### Tragedies

- **May 21, 2008**— A Tompkins Cortland Community College student was killed in an off-campus fire near Ithaca, NY. This was the 18th student-related fire death for the 2007-2008 academic year.
- **April 12, 2007**— A Bradley University student was killed in an off-campus house fire. The building did not have automatic fire sprinklers.
- **May 13, 2006**— A Cornell University student's life was claimed by an off-campus fire that started in a plastic container used for discarding smoking material.
- **April 30, 2005**— At the University of Maryland, a fire started on the porch of an off-campus house where six students lived. The fire spread inside the house. Four students escaped, one was critically injured and the other died. The fire was determined to be an arson fire.

## On and Off-Campus Fire Safety Tips and Statistics

In an effort to reduce the number of on and off-campus fires, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is providing this information to create awareness and increase student safety both on and off campus. For more information and tips on on/off-campus fire prevention go to [www.asse.org/newsroom](http://www.asse.org/newsroom).

### Residence Hall Fire Safety Tips

- Keep microwave ovens, hot plates and other cooking appliances out of unapproved areas.
- Know where the exits are located.
- Do not ignore alarms or drills.
- Do not put aluminum foil in the microwave.

### Fire Safety Statistics

- In more than 50 percent of adult fire fatalities, victims were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the fire.\*
- Smoke inhalation accounts for the majority of deaths in home fires. \*\*

### Off-Campus/Greek Housing

- Extinguish candles and incense when leaving the room.
- Keep combustible materials such as clothes, curtains, books, etc. at least three feet away from heaters.
- Check smoke alarms regularly.
- Change smoke alarm batteries every quarter.
- Develop and practice your fire escape plans with your roommates.
- Set-up a post-fire meeting place for you and your roommates.



### Common Causes of On and Off-Campus Fires

- Cooking is the main cause of fire injuries. Smoking materials, candles and arson are other causes.
- Improper use of 911 notification systems delays emergency response.
- Vandalized and improperly maintained smoke alarms inhibit early detection of fires.
- Evacuation efforts are often hindered when fire alarms are ignored, a common occurrence.
- Student apathy is prevalent. Many are unaware that fire is a risk or threat.

Sources include the National Fire Protection Association, [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org); National Fire Incident Reporting System, [www.nfirs.fema.gov](http://www.nfirs.fema.gov);

\*U.S. Fire Administration, [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov) and; \*\*National Safety Council, [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org). For more information or copies, please contact customer service at 847-699-2929.

Founded in 1911, the Des Plaines, IL based ASSE is the oldest and largest safety organization and is committed to protecting people, property and the environment. Go to [www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org) for more information.

