

The Essential Fire Safety Products for On- & Off-Campus Living

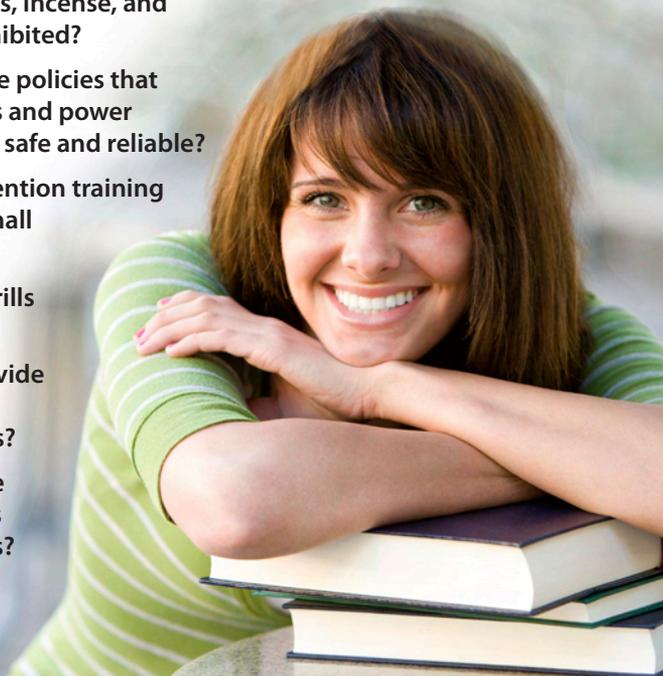
Whether heading to the residence hall, fraternity or sorority house, or off-campus housing, packing fire safety equipment, along with your child's computer and clothing, is a must.

On-Campus Living – Residence Halls and Greek Housing

All colleges and universities must comply with local fire codes, but these codes vary by municipality. Some require interconnected and hard-wired smoke alarms, but some don't. Some codes require sprinkler systems, but most don't.

If your son or daughter will live in university-owned housing this year, be sure to ask some simple questions before helping your kids unpack their bags:

- Are residence halls equipped with a sprinkler system?
- Does every student's room have a smoke alarm?
- On average, how many false alarms have occurred in the residence halls?
- Is the fire department immediately notified when the fire alarm system is activated?
- Are smoking, candles, incense, and Halogen lamps prohibited?
- Does the school have policies that electrical appliances and power strips be certified as safe and reliable?
- How much fire prevention training does the residence hall staff receive?
- How often are fire drills conducted?
- Does the school provide fire extinguisher training for students?
- How many fires have occurred on campus in the past five years?



Off-Campus Living – Apartments and Houses

Seventy-nine percent of fatal college fires take place in off-campus housing, and the incidences often mimic other residential fires in the U.S. However, when renting an apartment or house, most students don't ask a landlord about the fire safety equipment that's installed. Take a look around your child's apartment or house for the following:

- Are UL-listed smoke alarms installed in every room?
- If the smoke alarm uses batteries, have they been replaced for the start of the semester or quarter?
- Is a fire extinguisher within reach on each floor?
- Are there two ways out of every room?
- Are candles placed away from other flammable items?
- Are extension cords overloaded with too many appliances? Are the cords UL-listed?

If you answer "No" to any of these questions, talk to the landlord or superintendent about improving the fire safety equipment. Or, visit your local Home Depot and purchase what's needed to keep your son or daughter safe.

Consider the following fire safety products:

- **Two- or three-story escape ladder** – If your child has a second- or third-floor bedroom, an escape ladder can be used as an alternative means of escape.
- **UL-rated fire extinguisher** – A fire extinguisher can be used to put out a small fire or aid in creating a pathway to safety. Be sure to teach your child how to use the fire extinguisher.
- **Combination smoke / carbon monoxide (CO) alarm** – two-in-one alarms offer protection from fire and CO at a lower cost. Look for UL-listed alarms with voice alerts that distinguish between the hazards.
- **CO and smoke alarms** – Adding a battery-operated smoke alarm or a carbon monoxide alarm can offer added protection in the case of a fire or CO poisoning.

In addition, be sure to review an escape plan with your son or daughter and encourage students to practice it during the day and at night.

Visit www.campusfiresafety.org for more information on how to keep your child safe at school.

