College students living away from home should take a few minutes to make sure they are living in a fire-safe environment. Educating students on what they can do to stay safe during the school year is important and often overlooked.

SAFETY TIPS

>>> Look for fully sprinklered housing when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing.
>>> Make sure you can hear the building alarm system when you are in your dorm room.
>>> If you live in a dormitory, make sure your sleeping room has a smoke alarm, or your dormitory suite has a smoke alarm in each living area as well as the sleeping room. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the dormitory suite should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
>>> If you live in an apartment or house, make sure smoke alarms are installed in each sleeping room, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of the apartment unit or house. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the apartment unit or house should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
>>> Test all smoke alarms at least monthly.
>>> Never remove batteries or disable the alarm.
>>> Learn your building’s evacuation plan and practice all drills as if they were the real thing.
>>> If you live off campus, have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room.
>>> When the smoke alarm or fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.
>>> Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
>>> Cook only when you are alert, not sleepy or drowsy from medicine or alcohol.
>>> Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a barbecue grill, fire pit, or chimenea.
>>> Check your school’s rules before using electrical appliances in your room.

FACT

⚠️ Fires in dormitories are more common during the evening hours, between 5–11 pm, and on weekends.
⚠️ Roughly five out of six fires in dormitories are started by cooking.

Your Source for SAFETY Information

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NFPA.org/education