



Dear WAU Students and Staff,

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) would like to take this opportunity to talk to you about fire safety in our university.

1. Fire Alarms – Fire alarms occur frequently, and knowing what to do when they sound is an important part of fire safety. When the alarm sounds you should:
  - Grab clothes that are appropriate for the weather outside and exit the building using the stairs.
  - Go to the rally point designated for your building. If you are not sure where to go, ask your Dean or RA for the designated rally point of the building.
  - Wait until university police/security has given you the “All Clear” to go back in.
2. Fire Drills – State and County Fire Safety Codes requires us to conduct mandatory supervised fire drills, 12 a year (one per month) in our residential halls. We will conduct these fire drills in every residence hall throughout the year.
3. Cooking - Most of the alarms (smoke detectors) in apartments on campus are caused by students or staff cooking. On average, 77% of all alarms are cooking related. Some things you can do to reduce cooking related alarms are:
  - Never leave cooking food unattended
  - In HH and MH, no cooking is allowed in the dorm rooms
  - Set a timer so you don’t forget
  - Do not cook if you are tired or are otherwise impaired
  - Follow the directions on the package
4. Prohibited Items – For a full list of prohibited items, please visit [www.wau.edu/security](http://www.wau.edu/security). The most frequently encountered prohibited items on campus are listed below:
  - Candles
  - Incense
  - Halogen floor lamps
  - Lighters
  - Wood or paper matches
  - Tobacco products
  - Hot plates

A smoky fire broke out in a lounge of the freshman dormitory at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., in January, 20, 2000. 58 students were injured and 3 killed, because they failed to evacuate; students

thought it was “just another false alarm.” This is why it is so important to take each fire alarm seriously, get out of the building as quickly and safely as possible, and then proceed to the designated rally point.

If you have any questions or would like more information on fire safety at Washington Adventist University, please feel free to contact our Director and Safety Officer at **301-891-4019** or by email at [security@wau.edu](mailto:security@wau.edu).

If you see or smell smoke, please contact DPS at **301-891-4019**, and/or call **911** immediately.

For more information, please visit us at [www.wau.edu/security](http://www.wau.edu/security). Please feel free to check out other safety brochures and articles for more safety tips.