

# CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

Updated November 28, 2016



The following information has been compiled by Campus Firewatch. Please note that much of this information is gathered by monitoring the wire services so the actual number of fatal fires, especially in off-campus occupancies, may be higher. Information regarding the fatal fires is confirmed by Campus Firewatch with local fire department officials prior to inclusion. Please credit Campus Firewatch as to the source of this information if used in publication.

## Fatal Fires 2016-2017 academic year

11/23/16	Southern Illinois University-Carbondale	Off-campus	1
Year-to-date			1

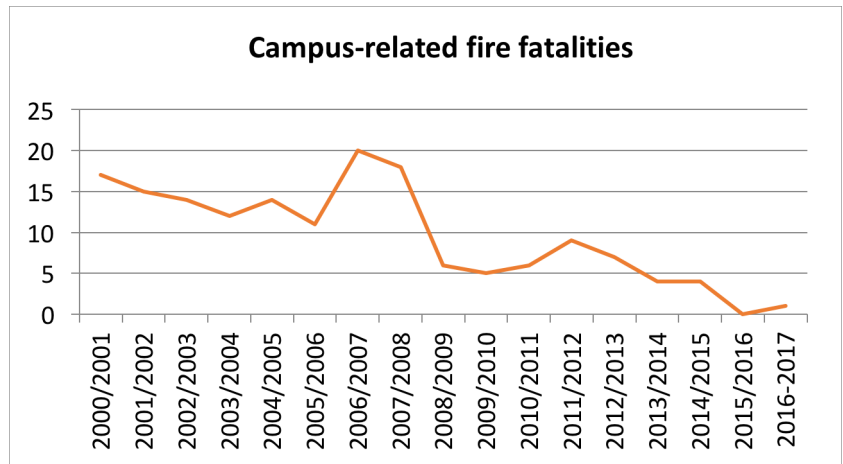
## College/University-related fire fatalities from January 2000 to present

Occupancy	Deaths	% of total
Off-campus	149	87%
Residence Hall	10	6%
Greek housing	10	6%
Other	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	

According to the U.S. Department of Education, there are approximately 18,000,000 students enrolled in 4,100 colleges and universities across the country. Approximately 2/3 of the students live in off-campus housing.

## Annual number of fatalities by academic year

2000 (partial)	8
2000-2001	17
2001-2002	15
2002-2003	14
2003-2004	12
2004-2005	14
2005-2006	11
2006-2007	20
2007-2008	18
2008-2009	6
2009-2010	5
2010-2011	6
2011-2012	9
2012-2013	7
2013-2014	4
2014-2015	4
2015-2016	0
2016-2017	1



## Common Factors

According to information compiled by Campus Firewatch, 86 percent of the college/university-related fire fatalities across the nation since January 2000 have occurred in off-campus housing. Five common factors in a number of these fires include:

- Lack of automatic fire sprinklers
- Missing or disabled smoke alarms
- Careless disposal of smoking materials
- Impaired judgment from alcohol consumption
- Fires originating on upholstered furniture on decks or porches

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## Significant, multiple-fatality fires

Since January 2000, 17 fires have killed 60 people. In other words, a small percentage of the fires, which are classified by Campus Firewatch as significant, multiple-fatality fires, are killing a large number of the victims. Most of these fires were off-campus.

1/19/00	Seton Hall University	3	4/10/05	Miami University	3
3/19/00	Bloomsburg University	3	6/7/05	Cons. of Recording and Arts	3
8/20/00	Berkeley, California	3	1/13/07	Marshall University	5
11/2/01	Virginia Commonwealth Univ.	3	2/3/07	MS State Univ.-Meridian	3
2/15/02	Univ. of NC-Greensboro	4	10/28/07	U of S. Carolina and Clemson	7
4/13/03	Ohio State University	5	4/5/08	U of Wisconsin-Stout	3
9/20/03	Univ. of Minnesota-Twin Cities	3	1/23/09	International Business College	3
5/22/04	Indiana University	3	1/21/12	Marist College	3
8/27/04	University of Mississippi	3			

## National Campus Fire Safety Month

September is nationally recognized as National Campus Fire Safety Month. Since the program started in 2005, 204 proclamations have been signed by the nation's governors as well as resolutions in the U.S. Congress. A list of the states is available at [www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com).

## Education Programs

Educating students about fire safety is a priority to help protect students, no matter where they live. Campus Firewatch has been closely involved with the Minger Foundation in the development of online training resources for students with disabilities at [www.mingerfoundation.org](http://www.mingerfoundation.org). We also recently created a series of tools for Resident Assistants to use in teaching fire safety, also available online, free of charge, from the Minger Foundation. The Alarming Truth ([www.alarmingtruth.org](http://www.alarmingtruth.org)) is a video about a hypothetical off-campus fire with important messages about smoke alarms, smoking and exits. It is available for free download.

## How are incidents chosen for inclusion?

Campus Firewatch has been monitoring the media since 2000 to identify fire incidents involving students resulting in the largest compilation of student-related fire incidents. Using this methodology, CFW has been able to identify a significant number of fatal fires that have occurred in off-campus occupancies that normally are not identified as involving students in official reports.

The criterion for including incidents is those that involve students or student housing and that the student(s) were present because of school. In some cases this might be clear-cut; in others it may involve some discretion in making a decision. Basically, if a fire death occurs in an occupancy where the outcome could have been changed if the students had fire safety knowledge, then it is considered for inclusion. Also, if there are other victims that were in the occupancy (such as family members) that were present because of the student, they are also included in the total. The rationale is that a fire can occur, no matter where they are, and that the student may have had an opportunity to change the outcome based on knowledge that he or she may have been able to obtain from the school.

**What is Campus Firewatch?** Campus Firewatch, in publication since 2000, is a social enterprise focusing solely on campus fire safety issues. It has been a leader in raising awareness of the importance of fire safety at our nation's campuses and a catalyst for numerous projects and efforts over the years.

More information can be found online at [www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com).