Off-Campus Fire Safety, Trends and More

Students have either locked down, or soon will be, their off-campus housing for next year. Unfortunately, fire safety isn’t often a consideration — important factors might be how close it is to campus, do they get their own room, and that it is inexpensive. Automatic fire sprinklers, smoke alarms and exits don’t really come to the forefront when looking at off-campus housing.

So, assuming they are living in housing that isn’t exactly perfect, what can be done?

**Education.**

Since they are living in the community, this is a great opportunity for a town/gown partnership when it comes to making the students aware of their personal responsibility when it comes to fire safety. Living off-campus, for a number of them, is probably the first time that they are on their own and responsible for cooking, cleaning, maintaining a house or apartment. This is the continuation of the transition of living with Mom and Dad, to a residence hall, to an off-campus house, to living entirely on their own after graduation. And this is a perfect time to teach them about how important smoke alarms are, knowing two ways out, smoking, candle and cooking safety - a whole host of fire safety information.

University of California, Davis Fire Department

https://fire.ucdavis.edu/

Staffing: 22
Stations: 1

The fire department at UC Davis protects 8.3 square miles, which is the largest land mass out of the University of California systems, according to Fire Chief Nathan Trauernicht. “We do this with 59 full-time, part-time and student personnel, responding to about 1,000 calls for service each year,” providing protection to over 23,000 staff and faculty as well as 36,000 students, the third-largest enrollment in the ten campus UC system.

The students play an integral role in the fire department, with 15 student fire fighters augmenting the daily on-duty staffing of three firefighters on an engine and four on the ladder truck. The calls they respond to are the same as what may be encountered in any urban environment, but with some special twists.

“UC Davis is one of the top five public research institutions in the country,” reported Trauernicht, “with over 9,000 unique chemicals, mixtures, and compounds in use on campus.” Because of this, the department’s members are heavily trained in hazardous materials with a blend of haz mat technicians and specialists. But even though they have a large number of chemicals in use on campus, they go on less than 10 chemical responses a year, which Trauernicht attributes to their amnesty program for chemical spills.

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National Campus Fire Safety Month – 14 years, 401 proclamations!

[www.campus-firewatch.com/proclamations](http://www.campus-firewatch.com/proclamations)

This year is the fourteenth year for National Campus Fire Safety Month (NCFSM), which is in September. Started in 2005, 11 proclamations were signed by the nation’s governors and each year, a letter co-signed by parents who have lost children in college-related fires, is sent to the governors asking them to issue proclamations to help raise awareness about campus fire safety.

Fast forward to 2018, the 401st proclamation has just been signed this year!

NCFSM is part of a nationwide effort to get students, parents, schools and communities more actively involved in learning about fire safety.
Before the program was put into place, “where we ran into a problem was unreported spills. Someone would walk in and find a spill,” said Trauernicht, which would trigger a hazardous materials call and then a clean-up operation. “Now, if you have a spill, you report it and we contact a third-party provider to remove it.”

Unreported spills also became a significant concern when decommissioning buildings. Environmental Health and Safety would have to come in and test the floors and walls and were discovering that there was a fair amount of chemicals from unreported spills, which raised the question of why this was happening?

“People were being charged for cleanup,” said Trauernicht, “and like most, these departments are on a tight budget.” By implementing an amnesty program where they are not charged for the cleanup, it has been a tremendous success.

Another program that the campus has put a lot of energy into is reducing unwanted alarms. The fire department used to carry spare heat detectors or smoke detectors and would swap them out after an unwanted alarm, but now there are Fire Alarm Technicians working for Facilities that come in and do a more comprehensive look at why the alarms are being triggered. “They do a phenomenal job of maintaining the systems and it has reduced the false alarms dramatically,” observed Trauernicht.

The largest number of runs, however, is medical responses, about 95 percent or more. According to Trauernicht, “We’re one of the bicycling capitals of the world, we run a lot of bike accidents, bike versus bike, bike versus car, bike versus pedestrian.” While they may have a lot of runs, many of them are low-acuity injury or sick calls. However, there are two freeways that run through their jurisdiction, and there are a large number of vehicle accidents that the department has to handle.

Fire responses are, fortunately, low “The campus has invested heavily in sprinkler retrofits and detections systems and is doing a great job of code enforcement during design and construction, making sure buildings are well protected.”

History

As with many universities, UC Davis had its start in agriculture. In 1908, the campus became a part of the UC system, and following a series of costly fires, the need for fire protection was recognized. In 1916 a faculty committee looked at the issue, and in 1917 an organized fire department led by a professor and staffed by faculty and students was put together.

The school continued to grow over the years, as did the fire department. In the 1940’s it had its first paid chief, followed later in the decade by its first paid fire fighters. “Part of what makes us unlike any other fire department is that the students have been a part of the emergency response for our entire 100-year history,” reported Trauernicht.
Student Fire Fighters

There are 15 students that live and work at the fire station, receive free room and board, and every two years the fire department runs a recruiting campaign and a fire academy to fill out the ranks. There are no pre-requisites to applying, and like any other fire department they do a written exam along with a physical ability assessment. The field narrows, and the applicants go before an oral board. The top 25 applicants are then selected and go through a Fire Fighter I academy. “We monitor their progress,” said Trauernicht, “and at the end of the academy we will make job offers to the recruits. Once they accept, we bring them back early before school starts and provide them with their EMT certification.” In addition, they are trained in haz mat fro/decon during this period.

Once the semester starts, the students are given a series of Task Books with details on the engine and ladder truck, and once they complete these they are then qualified to start responding on each apparatus. They are required to staff one 24-hour shift, four 14-hour shifts and attend two training sessions per month. In addition they have to maintain at least part-time status as students and have an acceptable GPA.

And, the experience stays with them.

“We have people that come here to be veterinarians, lawyers or engineers. While they may walk out of here with that degree, they have an interest in the fire service, and about three-quarters of our students go on to a career in the fire service,” observed Trauernicht. Half of the 22 UC Davis career fire department members are former students.

The fire department runs an engine and ladder on campus, with EMS transport being provided by a third-party. The city of Davis has its own fire department, but the UC Davis Fire Department runs on first alarms to the city and also is the ladder truck for the city. “We are also the biggest giver of aid in the county,” said Trauernicht. “We respond and give far more aid than we receive in the course of year.”

Community Engagement

One of the unique programs that the department is running is Fit for Fire that was started a few years ago. The concept was to “make the fire station a community destination instead of just a fixture.” Fire fighters get together to teach the public a fitness class once a week that includes endurance mixed with actual firefighting activities, such as a forcible entry prop, pulling a charged hose line, carrying a high rise pack up a set of stairs and more. To increase its community outreach even more, the department also started teaching EMT certification classes to the public in partnership with a local community college.

Realizing that much of the responses the department is doing are medical, and not fire related, Trauernicht said that they felt they have a different mission than most fire departments. “Many other mission statements say we protect life, property, and the environment, and in 2012 we redid our mission statement to one about providing programs and services that support a community of well-being. Obviously we still focus on fire, loss, and injury prevention, but you want to go one step further and have an understanding of health and wellness in your community and have a more vibrant community.”

One of the ways of influencing that is to have a community of responders and health care providers that the department trains. The department also manages the UC Davis Fire Department Student EMT program. This corps of EMTs provides staffing at various events on campus and, as students, are constantly available throughout the campus to assist at an emergency. By having these first responders widely available, they are on scene in the initial, critical moments of a medical emergency and can be key to ensuring a positive outcome.

In addition, the department was one of the first eight in the nation to adopt PulsePoint, an app that alerts community members to the need for CPR near them. “We want to be an agency that doesn’t just respond to stuff, but educates, is out in front of the incident,” said Trauernicht. Recognizing what a unique perspective that the department has, it is currently pursuing accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence, the only university-based fire department to do so.

UC Davis Fire Department has certainly come a long way from its agricultural roots to where it is today.
OFF-CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY, TRENDS AND MORE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

But the problem is always how to reach them, especially with a topic as exciting (to a college student) about fire safety. This is where it is so important to be creative and use different methods, and not to rely on one method, one channel, and do it just once. While September is a great time for pushing the message because it is National Campus Fire Safety Month, it is important to do it throughout the year as well.

Social media is one avenue, but it is important to keep in mind that this demographic is getting bombarded with messages each and every day, and a lot of it becomes background noise. And what students are using is changing. According to the Pew Research Center, the largest percentage of different age groups that use various social media channels is the 18 to 24-year-old cohort — and sometimes by a large margin. For example, 78% of this age group uses Snapchat on a daily basis, versus just over 50% for the next nearest age group, 25 to 29. Keeping up with what students are using for social media can be a regular job.

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Social platforms like Snapchat and Instagram are especially popular among those ages 18 to 24

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<th>% of U.S. adults in each age group who say they use…</th>
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Source: Survey conducted Jan. 3-10, 2018.
“Social Media Use in 2018.”
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Facebook continues to be the juggernaut when it comes to social media, but with the regular drumbeat of scandals that are coming out about how Facebook has been handling its user’s data, this may change, but this won’t be happening overnight. However, the student demographic are often the ones on the leading edge of social change, so this is worth keeping an eye on as to its effectiveness for trying to reach students with fire safety messaging. YouTube and videos continue to be an effective mechanism for reaching students, with Pew reporting that 94% of 18 to 24-year-olds use YouTube on a daily basis. Creating videos has become incredibly easy, but that’s not to say that creating effective videos has become incredibly easy. Creating an engaging video that is short continues to be a challenge, no matter what medium you are showing it on, and the keyword is short.

And, in keeping with the fact that today’s students are digital natives and grew up with technology, as opposed to being digital immigrants, a number of them report that they use four different social media platforms on a regular basis.

But social media isn’t the “be-all, end-all” when it comes to reaching students. It is easier to do in terms of resources, but it isn’t always the most effective mechanism. Reaching students in-person can probably be the strongest way to drive the message home. This could involve using methods such as fire extinguisher training, which not only effectively teaches a hands-on skill that students can use throughout their lives, it is just downright fun — how many times does a student get to 1) work with fire and 2) get to blow off a fire extinguisher without getting in trouble?

Town/Gown Projects

Elsewhere in this issue we talk about doing Town/Gown Community Fire Safety projects to get students involved in delivering fire safety and learning fire safety. While this may be labor intensive to get started, the students get a tremendous return on it, as does the community.

One thing that I learned in doing a recent one of these in Fort Collins, Colorado, was that there are students out there to tap into that may not necessarily be the first ones to come to mind, and in this case it was students from Colorado State University’s School of Social Work. These are students that are getting ready to go out into the community and work with people in need to address those needs…a natural tie-in with Community Risk Reduction efforts.

A case in point — one student that had gone out and done smoke alarm installations with the Poudre Fire Authority had become so motivated by what she saw and did that she then went and organized her own weekend smoke alarm installation and community service day in a trailer park. She was able to get other students to volunteer and work with her, and they were able to remove trash from the park, repair roofs and help out the residents in a wide variety of different ways.

The other students that I spoke with were also moved by what they saw and did and, just as importantly, now have fire safety knowledge that they can use in their future professional careers and personal lives. You can find more information on this at www.campus-firewatch.com/towngown

Trends

In future issues I’m going to be diving into trends when it comes to off-campus housing. Some of the things I’m seeing, as I’m sure all of you are, is that there is a definite growth in professionally built and run off-campus housing. This is becoming a growing industry that provides a much higher level of safety for the students. What impact will this have on the typical off-campus, converted one-family house? We’ll be exploring that in the upcoming issues.

Another area that I’m seeing growth in is the use of websites that connect off-campus housing with students. Schools are starting to use these to help facilitate the housing search, and they are providing a degree of oversight to the off-campus market.

But the biggest trend is the rapid decrease in off-campus housing fires and fatal fires. While this is anecdotal, the number of fires is decreasing and, certainly, the number of fatal fires has dramatically dropped.

And this is the best news of all.

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New Mexico State University Fire Department

https://fire.nmsu.edu/

Staffing: 20 (6 career, 14 student)
Stations: 1

New Mexico State University (NMSU) sits on a 900-acre campus and enrolls more than 15,000 students from 49 states and 89 foreign countries. NMSU is a NASA Space Grant College and is home to the very first Honors College in New Mexico. A Hispanic-serving institution, NMSU serves a multi-cultural population of students and community members across the state at five campuses, a satellite learning center in Albuquerque, cooperative extension offices located in each of New Mexico’s 33 counties, and twelve agriculture research and science centers. Plus, distance education programs give students maximum flexibility.

The New Mexico State University Fire Department started back in 1921 as a group of volunteers that worked for the school’s Physical Plant. It has since evolved into a department of 20 fire fighters, six of them career, including a chief, deputy chief, 2 fire fighters and 2 captains that oversee two shifts of 14 student fire fighters, according to Fire Chief Johnny Carrillo, who joined the department in 2009 after retiring from the Las Cruces fire department with 21 years of service.

NMSU is one of 16 fire districts in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. They have mutual and automatic aid agreements in place so that they can give or receive aid from their adjacent fire districts. In 2014, NMSU achieved an ISO Public Protection Classification of 3.

“During orientation, when we are hiring, we ask for a commitment of at least two years,” said Carrillo, “and it is pretty consistent that we get them for two to four years. Sometimes their degree program will change and they extend their commitment.”

As part of the program they are required to have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and take at least six credit hours of classes each semester. They are not required to take classes during the summer, but they are considered to be fire fighters all year long and can continue working throughout the summer. Carrillo observed that this is a very busy time for the fire department as they are doing a lot of inspections and maintenance work along with pre-planning, so it is not only beneficial having the students to help, but they also get exposed to all of the different facets of the job, besides just emergency response.

In 2017, the department had 1,112 emergency calls, of which 56% were medical with an average response time of 4 minutes and 18 seconds. The fire department provides fire and BLS-level EMS, but several of the members are trained to ALS levels and transportation is provided by an outside ambulance service. A unique situation that they face is that a large percentage of their calls were off-campus, approximately 45%. “One of our biggest challenges is being able to support our adjacent districts with the small force we have,” said Carrillo.

The department is equipped with two pumpers, an aerial, heavy rescue as well as several utility and staff vehicles. They are trained to confined space rescue and technical rope rescue and personnel are also trained to hazardous materials awareness level. “The students are here for too short a period
of time to train them to a hazardous materials technician level,” observed Carrillo, “it was too much to expect them to maintain their skills.”

The department supports a number of outreach programs on campus on a range of topics, reported Carrillo. “We maintain partnerships with Housing and Residence Life, Dean of Students, Greek Life and the Police Department. The fire department plans two large-scale safety events each year, changing up the theme.” Twice, they’ve invited Sean Simons and Alvaro Llanos, survivors of the Seton Hall tragedy to speak. The department also does fire extinguisher training, CPR classes, bike safety education, hot works and much more.

When it comes to fires, fortunately they don’t have many on campus. Last year there were only three fires, and they were all cooking related. “Super minor” is how Carrillo characterized them because they were alerted early because of the building’s fire alarm systems, and none of them went beyond the microwave or stove. All of the residence halls on campus do have monitored alarm systems, but not all have sprinklers, yet.

In addition to emergency response and fire prevention education, the fire department also serves as the authority having jurisdiction for NMSU’s main campus. The campus uses the 2018 editions of the International Building Code and International Fire Code to govern construction.

Experiential Learning

An important part of student’s experience on the fire department is that they experience what the department refers to as “experiential learning.”

“They come in brand new, first time away from home, first job ever,” said Carrillo. “Some have never driven a car. When they leave, 2 year or 4 years later, they are more mature individuals, they have life experience and are making hard and important decisions as part of a team. They learn a lot more than just relying on what they learned in their books.”

While some go on to the fire service, a number of them also go into careers aligning with their degree, but sometimes the two intersect, according to Carrillo.

“One of our fire fighters, a couple of years ago, went into a medical program. He wanted to see what it is like, from the front line of the emergency, all the way to transport, the hospital and further down. He was a great fire fighter, he got his degree, and now he is a neuro surgeon at the Rochester Mayo Clinic. He stopped by a few months ago to thank us, and told me that this all started as a dream, that we gave him the motivation and mentoring.”

You can’t ask for better than that.

...
fire safety and their roles, and this effort is working. Since starting the program, college-related fire deaths have dropped from a high of 20 in one year to none, two years ago. And to date, this academic year has not had any either.

The biggest risk is in off-campus housing. Since 2000, over 85% of college-related fire deaths have happened off-campus, and since 2010, every fire death has been in off-campus housing. Unfortunately, there is no way of tracking off-campus fires except through news reports, which Campus Firewatch has been doing since 2000 and reporting on in each issue, and for this reason it is not possible to definitively identify trends. However, anecdotally, I would say that the number of fires being reported in the media is definitely on a downward trend, as is the overall number of fatal fires.

I really believe that this comes down to the education that schools are giving to students while they are in the residence halls and beyond. By teaching them about topics such as candle safety, smoking, cooking and how to use fire extinguishers, about the importance of smoke alarms and two ways out in off-campus housing, these students are better prepared.

By making parents more aware of how important it is that they be involved in helping their children select off-campus housing, they are making sure these students are living in safer housing. And by encouraging schools and fire departments to work together on educational programs that reach out to all students, throughout their academic career, the fire safety messages are being continually reinforced.

Last year, in partnership with First Alert, Campus Firewatch held the first nationwide Town/Gown Community Fire Safety Project where students worked alongside fire fighters going into the community to install smoke alarms. This was a great way to help make the community safer, but to also teach students about fire safety by having them do fire safety. Check out the page at the Campus Firewatch website with more information on this project, along with a video of the students from Colorado State University-Fort Collins working with the Poudre Fire Authority. www.campus-firewatch.com/towngown

And stay tuned, because we’ll be doing it again in 2018!

On the following pages is a copy of one of the 50 letters sent to the nation’s governors asking them to issue proclamations for National Campus Fire Safety Month, followed by the first five proclamations received for 2018. More information can be found at www.campus-firewatch.com/proclamations.

• • •
Dear Governor Baker:

Each of us signing this letter knows what it is like to have lost a loved one while they are away at college. This was a time in their lives of growth, learning and exploration, but it came to a tragic end from a fire that, so often, is preventable and avoidable. What students learn through fire safety education is not just to keep them safe for the time they are in college – they are literally lessons for life. As this letter is being written, at least 172 people have died in college-related fires across the nation since January 2000, with 87% of them occurring in off-campus housing, including several in Massachusetts. Education and awareness are vital to helping stop this tragic loss of life.

As tragic as each of these fires are, we are seeing significant progress. Most notably, for the first time since records started being kept in 2000, there were no fire deaths nationwide in the 2015-2016 academic year, a tremendous achievement, and two people died last year, a significant decrease. We believe this is because of the strong efforts that schools and communities are doing to making students and their parents more aware of fire safety and how to prevent and survive a fire.

Since 2005, Massachusetts has issued a proclamation every year, the only state to do so, and we would like to ask for your help in raising awareness by again signing a proclamation designating September 2018 as Campus Fire Safety Month. In total, there have been 395 proclamations signed by our nation’s governors in response to our requests, as well as resolutions in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Together, we can make sure that there are even fewer fire deaths in the coming year.

Please join with us this September to promote campus fire safety awareness and support our efforts in providing safe housing for our young people, our nation's future. If you should need any additional information, please contact Ed Comeau from Campus Firewatch at 413-296-1982 or ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com.

Thank you for your support!
Jeff Block
Woodbridge, Connecticut
Father of Eva Block
July 9, 1990-January 21, 2012
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, New York

Barrett Cohen
Maineville, Ohio
Brother of Austin (A.J.) Cohen
March 12, 1979 – December 10, 2000
University of Dayton
Dayton, Ohio

Donna Cohen
Sarasota, Florida
Mother of Austin (A.J.) Cohen
March 12, 1979 – December 10, 2000
University of Dayton
Dayton, Ohio

Bob Fitzsimons
Maryanne Fitzsimons
Commack, NY
Parents of Kerry Rose Fitzsimons
January 21, 2012
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, New York

Andy Grooms
Ruidoso, New Mexico
Father of Stephen Andrew Grooms
Catawba College
Salisbury, North Carolina

Rich and Darlene Heiden
Racine, Wisconsin
Parents of Brian Heiden
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Donna Henson
Leawood, Kansas
Mother of Dominic Passantino
April 12, 1980 - May 8, 1999
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri
Pamela Johnson

Pamela Johnson  
Grifton, North Carolina  
Mother of Cody Pilkington  
November 14, 1985 - October 7, 2005  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Lettie Latiolais  
New Iberia, Louisiana  
Mother of Kurt J. Latiolais, II  
June 22, 1981 - October 18, 2003  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Gail Minger  
Seneca, South Carolina  
Mother of Michael Minger  
June 24, 1979 - September 18, 1998  
Murray State University, Kentucky  
Murray, Kentucky

Kathleen Moritz  
Evergreen Park, Illinois  
James Osborn  
Scottsdale, Arizona  
Parents of Tanner “TJ” Osborn  
September 22, 1982 - June 7, 2005  
Chicago, Illinois

Christopher M Ross Sr.  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin  
Father of Christopher M Ross Jr.  
July 6, 1985- June 7, 2005  
Chicago, Illinois

Linda and Gary Schlittler  
Linda and Gary Schlittler  
Manchester, Missouri  
Parents of Brian Schlittler  
April 22, 1981 – November 29, 2006  
University of Missouri  
St. Louis, Missouri
Edye Smith
Bethesda, Maryland
Mother of Stephen Smith
June 21, 1982 – April 10, 2005
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

Jim Speckien
Jim Speckien
Vadnais Heights, Minnesota
Parent of Amanda Speckien
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Tim and Patty Talen
Plymouth, Wisconsin
Parents of Peter Joseph Talen
August 24, 1984 - November 18, 2007
University of Wisconsin UWLAX
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Doug and Linda Turnbull
Milford, Ohio
Parents of Julie Turnbull
May 8, 1983 - April 10, 2005
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

Kimberly Wencl
Owatonna, Minnesota
Mother of Elizabeth Wencl
September 12, 1983 – September 20, 2003
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Bonnie and Leon Woodruff
Raleigh, North Carolina
Parents of Benjamin Woodruff
April 27, 1976 - May 12, 1996
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Proclamation

To express the support of the establishment of September as Campus Fire Safety Month, and for other purposes.

Whereas student-related housing fires in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Washington, DC, and other schools across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our Nation;

Whereas since January 2000, at least 172 people, including students, parents, and children have died in college-related fires;

Whereas approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies;

Whereas a majority of the students across the Nation live in off-campus occupancies;

Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants;

Whereas it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken;

Whereas it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building’s occupants;

Whereas many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms;

Whereas it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career;

Whereas it is vital to educate the future generation of our Nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and
Campus Fire Safety Month
Proclamation

Resolved, That the Governor—

(1) supports the establishment of September as Campus Fire Safety Month;

(2) encourages schools and municipalities across the country to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year; and

(3) encourages schools and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing and take the necessary steps to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems and smoke alarms and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Student-related housing fires in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Washington, D.C., and other schools across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our Nation; and

WHEREAS: Since January 2000, at least 171 people, including students, parents, and children have died in college-related fires, and approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies; and

WHEREAS: A majority of the students across the Nation live in off-campus occupancies; and

WHEREAS: A number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants; and

WHEREAS: Automatic fire sprinkler systems and smoke alarms are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building’s occupants and they provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department so that appropriate action can be taken; and

WHEREAS: Many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and resident halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms; and

WHEREAS: Fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and

WHEREAS: Students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career; and

WHEREAS: It is vital to educate the future generation of our Nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and

WHEREAS: By developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 2018, as

CAMPUSS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

across the State, and I encourage schools and municipalities across Arkansas to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 19th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2018.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State
By His Excellency Dannel P. Malloy, Governor:

Official Statement

WHEREAS, since January 2000, at least 172 people, including students, parents, and children, have died in student housing fires; and

WHEREAS, over 85 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies, in which a majority of the students across the nation live; and

WHEREAS, a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems provide the necessary early warnings of a fire to occupants and the fire department so appropriate action can be taken; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems provide a highly-effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building's occupants; and

WHEREAS, many students are living in housing that is not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and

WHEREAS, students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety training throughout their college career, and it is vital to educate the future generations about the importance of fire safety so these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during college years and beyond; and

WHEREAS, by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced; now

WHEREFORE, I, Dannel P. Malloy, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim the month of September 2018 as

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

in the State of Connecticut. I urge all college and university officials and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety provided in both on and off-campus student housing and to take the necessary steps to ensure a fire-safe living environment, and I encourage schools and municipalities to provide fire safety educational programs to students in September and throughout the school year.

Dannel P. Malloy
GOVERNOR
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, student-related housing fires in South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and other schools across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our nation; and

WHEREAS, since January 2009, at least 169 people, including students, parents, and children have died in campus-related fires; and

WHEREAS, approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the students across the nation live in off-campus occupancies; and

WHEREAS, a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are highly effective methods of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building’s occupants; and

WHEREAS, many students are living in off-campus occupancies. Great housing and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and

WHEREAS, students are not uniformly receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to educate the future generation of our nation about the importance of fire safety behaviors so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and

WHEREAS, by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2018 as

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

in Iowa and encourage administrators and municipalities across the country to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year and encourage administrators and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing and take the necessary steps to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems and smoke alarms, and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREBY TO

SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT

SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED,

DONE AT DES MOINES THE 1st DAY OF JANUARY,

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND

EIGHTEEN.

Kim Reynolds
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTERT.

PAUL F. FANKE
SECRETARY OF STATE

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Governor’s Office

PROCLAMATION

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH
September 2018

WHEREAS, since January 2000, at least 172 people, including students, parents, and children, have died in campus-related fires with 87 percent of these fires occurring in off-campus occupancies;

WHEREAS, automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide the necessary early warning of a fire to occupants and the fire department so that appropriate action can be taken; and

WHEREAS, automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building’s occupants; and

WHEREAS, fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to educate the future generations of our nation about the importance of fire safety so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and

WHEREAS, by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH, and I urge schools and municipalities to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this tenth day of January two thousand eighteen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-second.
STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, since January 2000, at least 170 people, including students, parents, and children have died in campus-related fires; and

WHEREAS, approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the students across the nation live in off-campus occupancies; and

WHEREAS, a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building’s occupants; and

WHEREAS, many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to educate the future generation of our Nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and

WHEREAS, by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of September, 2018 as

Campus Fire Safety Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this eighth day of January, 2018.

[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State
STATE of WISCONSIN

OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS recent student housing fires across the country and earlier fires in Wisconsin have tragically cut short the lives of some young adults; and

WHEREAS since January 2000, at least 172 people have died in campus related fires, and 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus housing; and

WHEREAS most students live off campus and many of the buildings are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems; and

WHEREAS some fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants; and

WHEREAS it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems and fire safety education are highly effective methods of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, and reducing the loss of life and property damage; and

WHEREAS students do not routinely receive effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career; and

WHEREAS by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Scott Walker, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all of our citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 12th day of January 2018.

SCOTT WALKER
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

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November 17, 2017
Residence Hall - Arson
Quinnipiac University
Hamden, Connecticut

Two Quinnipiac University students were charged with arson after setting two fires in trash cans in several bathroom stalls in a residence hall that housed 500 students. A student was burned while trying to move the burning trash can.

November 19, 2017
Residence Hall
Southern New Hampshire University
Hooksett, New Hampshire

A fire broke out in an occupied, three-story residence hall, damaging six of the twelve units, causing $500,000 in damage. Fifty-one students were displaced.

November 21, 2017
Greek - Fraternity
Kettering University
Flushing, Michigan

A fire broke out in the Sigma Nu fraternity at approximately 9:00 p.m. above the ceiling on the third floor. Thirteen students were displaced by the fire.

December 9, 2017
Academic - Laboratory
North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota

A fire broke out at approximately 5:20 p.m. Upon arrival, fire crews found smoke in the basement. The fire was contained to one room, but there was smoke damage on three floors. The fire was extinguished by 5:35 p.m. and a Hazardous materials team evaluated conditions in the building before it was reoccupied.

December 11, 2017
Residence Hall
North Carolina Central University
Durham, North Carolina

A fire broke out in a trash chute in an occupied residence hall, forcing 160 students to evacuate the building. No injuries were reported.

December 13, 2017
Residence Hall
University of North Dakota
Grand Forks, North Dakota

A fire broke out in a residence hall room at approximately 6:28 p.m. The fire occurred in an overloaded dryer in the laundry room. Fire damage was confined to the dryer and several adjacent units, smoke damage was confined to the fires floor. Students were allowed to reenter at 7:30 p.m.

December 15, 2017
Residence Hall
Ithaca College
Ithaca, New York

A fire broke out in ductwork leading from dryers at approximately 8:00 a.m. The fire traveled up the ductwork and into the attic, but was contained to the ductwork. The fire displaced more than 100 students.

December 16, 2017
Residence Hall - Sprinkler Save
Duke University
Durham, North Carolina

A fire broke out in a residence hall room at approximately 7:48 p.m. and was controlled by the activation of the building’s automatic fire sprinkler system. Damage was confined to the room.

January 2, 2018
Academic - Library
St. Louis University
St. Louis, Missouri

A fire that was started by a candle broke out in a residence hall at approximately 7:50 p.m. The fire was controlled by the activation of the building’s automatic fire sprinkler system.

January 4, 2018
Residence Hall
Washington State University
Pullman, Washington

A fire broke out in a university apartment complex between noon and 1:00 p.m. The occupants of an apartment had left food on the stove and the damage was limited to the kitchen. All of the occupants of the apartment building were evacuated.

January 17, 2018
Off-Campus
University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut

A fire broke out in an off-campus apartment building that houses a number of UConn students at approximately 8:00 p.m. The fire started in a kitchen on the second floor, but smoke traveled throughout the building forcing the evacuation of the 64 occupants. One person was transported for smoke inhalation.
January 17, 2018  
Parking Garage  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
Worcester, Massachusetts  
A parked car in a parking garage caught fire at approximately 5:00 p.m. and spread to nine other cars. The attached Ambulatory Care Center was forced to evacuate. The building reopened at approximately 9:30 p.m.

January 17, 2018  
Arson Fires  
St. Catherine University  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
Several fires were set on campus, including one in a residence hall that housed a day care center. The fire was controlled by the activation of the building’s automatic fire sprinkler system. A 19-year-old female, a former student, was charged with setting the fires. It was reported that she was upset with the U.S. military destroying schools in Iraq or Afghanistan. The fires were small and were contained.

January 30, 2018  
Support - Physical Plant  
University of Delaware  
Newark, Delaware  
A fire broke out in a building at the university’s physical plant complex at approximately 6:15 p.m. and required two hours to bring it under control. One fire fighter was transported with non-life-threatening injuries.

January 31, 2018  
Academic - Laboratory  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
A small explosion occurred in a fume hood at approximately 2:45 p.m. The building was evacuated and occupants were allowed back in at approximately 3:30 p.m. One student was treated for eye irritation.

February 2, 2018  
Residence Hall  
Douglass College  
New Brunswick, New Jersey  
A fire broke out in a residence hall at approximately 8:00 p.m. and was extinguished 30 minutes later. There was no report on fire damage, but the building was reported to be filled with smoke and the students were relocated to other housing on campus.

February 1, 2018  
Residence Hall  
Stony Brook University  
Stony Brook, New York  
A fire broke out in a residence hall at approximately 8:46 a.m., forcing 70 students to evacuate. The fire damage was limited to one room, but there was smoke and water damage to adjacent areas. Students from one wing were allowed to return to their rooms, but student from another wing were relocated to temporary housing.

February 6, 2018  
Residence Hall  
Cabrini University  
Radnor, Pennsylvania  
A series of three fires since mid-December, the latest on February 6, 2018, have been set in a residence hall. All of them have occurred in a third-floor bathroom, and two were set on December 14.

February 7, 2018  
Residence Hall  
Texas State Technical College  
Sweetwater, Texas  
A fire in a fine arts building broke out at approximately 9:39 a.m. The fire was caused by a burned-out motor in a heating unit in a stairwell that filled the building with smoke. Students were allowed to reenter the building at 10:00 a.m. while fire fighters vented the building.

February 23, 2018  
Off-Campus  
University of Maine  
Orono, Maine  
Five students were displaced when a fire destroyed an off-campus house. The fire broke out at approximately 1:30 p.m. The house was vacant at the time of the fire, but all of the student’s contents were destroyed in the fire.

February 27, 2018  
Academic - Classroom  
University of California Long Beach  
Long Beach, California  
A fire involving a reaction between liquid lithium hydroxide and solid lithium metal caused a fire in a classroom. One person was transported to the hospital with injuries. The fire was extinguished at approximately 1:50 p.m.

March 2, 2018  
Residence Hall - Sprinkler Save  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, Kansas  
A fire broke out at approximately 4:40 a.m. on the fourth floor of a residence hall. The fire was caused by a faulty fan and was extinguished by the activation of the building’s automatic fire sprinkler system. There was approximately $9,000 in damage.

Unknown dates  
Residence Hall  
University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, Texas  
A series of small fires were set on bulletin boards in a residence hall.