



## Off-campus housing fire safety checklist

Since 2000, 85% of college-related fire fatalities have happened in off-campus housing, where most students live. When looking for a place, consider these 10 items:

### Smoke Alarms

- Are there smoke alarms in every bedroom, on every level of the building?
- In most fatal fires, the smoke alarms are missing or disabled. Often, a reason for this is nuisance alarms caused by cooking. Photoelectric smoke alarms near the kitchen can help cut down on this. What kind of smoke alarms do you have?

### Exits

- Are there two ways out of every bedroom? Keep in mind the second way out may be a window.
- If a window is the second way out, does it open? Is it blocked by an air conditioner? Can you climb out of it? Are there security bars on the window?
- If the bedroom is on a second or third floor, do you have an escape ladder? These can be purchased online or in a home improvement store.
- Is there a second way out of the house or unit? Every apartment must have two ways out.

### Automatic Fire Sprinklers

- Is the building equipped with automatic fire sprinklers? This will increase your chances of surviving a fire significantly.

### Fire Causes

- The leading cause of all home fires is cooking. What condition is the stove in?
- What about the electrical service? Are there enough outlets to handle today's electrical needs?
- What about smoking? The leading cause of all fatal home fires is smoking, and a contributing factor in college-related fires is fires that start in upholstered furniture on porches and decks.

There is a lot more to consider when looking for fire-safe housing, this is not a complete list. For more information on campus fire safety, visit

- Campus Firewatch ([www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com))
- U.S. Fire Administration ([www.ufsa.fema.gov](http://www.ufsa.fema.gov))
- National Fire Protection Association ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org))

### Campus Firewatch

[www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com) | Facebook [www.facebook.com/campusfirewatch](https://www.facebook.com/campusfirewatch) |  
[@campusfirewatch](https://www.facebook.com/campusfirewatch) | [ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com)