

Campus Fire Safety

Students moving into campus housing or off campus apartments need to be aware of safety issues. Every year there are a number of residential fires affecting students everywhere. While there are several causes for these fires, including arson, you need to be prepared in the event of a fire.

If your building has a fire alarm system, become involved in fire drills. If you have not been instructed about fire protection features in your building, **ASK**.

Test your smoke alarms at least once per month. If the alarms don't sound when you push the test button, contact your landlord or administrator immediately.

Know how to use your 9-1-1 system and know your specific address.



Test your smoke alarms at least once monthly.



Alabama Department of Insurance: State Fire Marshal's Office

Post Office Box 303352
201 Monroe Street
Suite 1790
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3352

Phone: 334-241-4166
Fax: 334-241-4158
E-mail: firemarshal@insurance.alabama.gov

ALABAMA ARSON HOTLINE
1-800-654-0775

Alabama State Fire
Marshal's Office Presents

College Campus Fire Safety



College students living away from home should take a few minutes to make sure they are living in a fire-safe environment.

The Fire Marshal's Office wants students to know what they should do to stay safe during the school year.

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Safety Tips

- Look for dormitories or off campus apartments with fire sprinkler systems.
- Make sure your housing has smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside every sleeping area and on each level. For the best protection, all smoke alarms should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
 - Test smoke alarms at least monthly.
 - Never remove batteries or disable a fire 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 or fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.
- During a power outage, use a flashlight.
- Cook only where it is permitted.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Cook only when you are alert, not sleepy or drowsy from exhaustion, medicine, or alcohol.
- Check with your local fire department about any restrictions before using a barbecue grill, fire pit or chimenea.
- Check your school's rules before using electrical appliances in your room.
- Use a surge protector for your computer and plug the protector directly into an outlet.



More Tips

- Do not overload electrical outlets and make sure extension cords are used properly, if at all.
- Learn to properly use and maintain heating and cooking appliances.
- Make sure Christmas or other seasonal decorations are at least three feet away from any heat source. Use decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Avoid lighting candles. Open flames indoors are a fire hazard.

Campus Fire Facts

- Every year college students experience a growing number of fire related emergencies, often because of a general lack of knowledge about fire safety and prevention
- Fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities and apartments are more common during the evening hours between 5 and 10 pm and on weekends.
- Improper use of 911 notification system often delays emergency response.



Use a surge protector for your computer and plug the protector directly into an outlet.

More Campus Fire Facts

- Student apathy is prevalent. Many are unaware that fire is a risk or threat in the environment.
- Evacuation efforts are hindered since fire alarms are often ignored.
- Building evacuations are delayed due to lack of preparation and preplanning.
- Vandalized and improperly maintained smoke alarms and fire alarms systems inhibit early detection of fires.
- Misuse of cooking appliances, overloaded electrical circuits and extension cords increase the risk of fires.
- In cases where fire fatalities occurred on college campuses, alcohol was often a factor. There is a strong link between alcohol and fire deaths. In more than 50% of adult fire fatalities, victims were under the influence at the time of the fire. Alcohol or drug abuse often impairs judgment and hampers evacuation efforts.
- Cooking is the leading cause of fire injuries on college campuses, closely followed by careless smoking and arson.

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