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FROM THE PRESIDENT

What is Filling Your Calendar?

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OFF-CAMPUS, by Tim Knisely

Move-In Guide for Off-Campus Housing

Living off-campus is often times the first true taste of independent living for a college student. As excited as they may be - here are some tips to follow to help make a smooth transition. For more information check with your landlord or the student affairs office for publications that will offer specific help with move-in issues.

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THE INSPECTOR, by Phil Chandler

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As busy as we are in the summer months, most of us somehow manage to grab a few days here and there to get away from it all. For some, it's a couple of days at the shore, for others, a wilderness getaway. For the Inspector, an idle afternoon in the hammock will have to do. Regardless, as we while away these precious, hard-earned moments, many of us will share in a summer rite of passage: stretching out with a good read and a cold beverage on the side.

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CODES, STANDARDS & MORE

Center's Codes & Standards Committee Advances Mass Notification

The Center's Codes, Standards and Technical Research Committee is moving forward to advance Mass Notification/Emergency Communication Systems in our National Life Safety Model Codes. The team is working with the NFPA Technical Committee to affect changes in the 2018 edition of NFPA 101 and NFPA 5000, and in the future will work with the ICC International Building and Fire Codes. We'll keep you informed as we progress. For additional information please contact SupportTeam@campusfiresafety.org

[MORE ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES



Have a Plan for your Safety By Curt Floyd, NFPA

Okay, so it's the middle of summer and the last thing that's on your mind are college dorm rooms or off-campus housing. But you will soon be there. Whether it's your first year in college or your final year, you should have a plan for your safety.

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SECTION 404, Fire Safety, Evacuation & Lockdown Plans

404.1 General. Where required by Section 403, fire safety, evacuation and lockdown plans shall comply with Sections 404.2 through 404.4.1.
404.2 Contents. Fire safety and evacuation plan contents shall be in accordance with ...

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TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING WEBINARS:

NFPA 4, by Paul Dunphy, Harvard University, August 19, 11AM EST

Key Changes to 2015 ICC and NFPA Model Codes, Richard Roberts, Honeywell Fire Systems, 11/19, 11AM EST

[MORE INFO & REGISTRATION

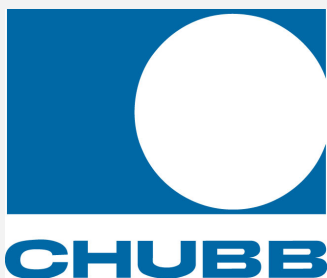
Cost: Members Free | Non-Members \$50.

Non Members: Become a Member and attend this webinar free.

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[MEMBERSHIP INFO

ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



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MEMBER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

FIRE INCIDENT NEWS | BREAKING NEWS | MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

We provide you with continual news updates when they happen Click on the links above to find hundreds of higher education specific new stories and search through years of our **news archives**.

MEMBER NEWS

FEMA ... New topical fire report is now online ... Civilian Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings (7/20)

Don't forget - send job postings to:
SupportTeam@campusfiresafety.org.
There is no charge to post these in our newsletter.

CAREER CONNECTION

Campus Fire Marshal, University of California, Berkeley

This position is part of a highly dynamic, fast paced, committed organization focused on promoting workplace safety and environmental protection for the campus community. We are comprised of many scientific, technical, and administrative professionals, working in an

ACTIVITIES

October NEMA Meeting ...

Rodger Reiswig of Tyco, will be speaking to the NEMA Committee to provide an update on The Center's active projects, including the joint CCFS/NEMA Mass Notification Project.

evolving, learning, and sometimes challenging environment with a unified goal of supporting the University's mission of teaching, research and public service.

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FIRE FATALITY STATISTICS

We provide basic information about fire fatalities that occurred on a university or college campus, or that occurred within the town where the campus is located.

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FOR FIRE SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



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FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

Campus Fire Safety for Students is a joint outreach effort between The Center's Student Committee and NFPA.

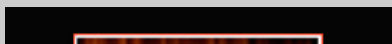
[Campus Fire Safety for Students Webpage](#)



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Paul D. Martin

July 2015

What is Filling Your Calendar?

As I talk with people today I find a recurring theme, that being - it's unbelievable how busy people are these days.

Trying to get their time (AKA: attention) can be next to impossible. It isn't that they don't want to talk, it is just that they are too busy. Busy with what you wonder?

Meetings. The workday's black hole!!! Filling our calendars, sucking precious time and energy from our bodies and minds and serving as the bane of our efficiency. There are staff meetings, team meetings, project meetings, planning meetings, meetings to plan meetings and meetings to review earlier meetings. Then of course it is the time needed to draft meeting notes and schedule follow ups to the meeting just finished up. According to John Kenneth

Galbraith "Meetings are indispensable when you don't want to do anything."

Like so many things that go terribly wrong, the meeting likely got its start as a reasonable idea. "Let's sit down and talk about it," someone probably said innocently long ago, and shazam! the meeting was born. And from those innocent and well-intended beginnings, came today's time eating monster, with its insatiable appetite, devouring day after day in its ravenous jaws

Well, perhaps that's overstating it, but American workers do indeed question the value of all the time they spend in meetings.

Searching the web I found the following shocking, yet interesting and even humorous statistics on meetings:

- 37% of employee time is spent in meetings
- managers attend more than 60

meetings per month

- 47% consider too many meetings the biggest waste of time
- 39% of meeting participants admitted to dozing off during a meeting
- over 70% brought other work to meetings
- it is estimated that 25-50% of meeting time is wasted
- researchers found that the more meetings people attended, the more exhausted they felt and the higher they perceived their workload to be.

With so many meetings consuming our day, it is no wonder why we all report that we are so busy. Busy is one thing, productive is another.

We all tend to judge our productivity somewhat by how "hard" we perceive we work, often evaluating merely how



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much activity we engage in, rather than how much we are actually getting done. I believe everyone is susceptible to this. I have caught myself on occasion playing the busy card as my rationale for not being able to accomplish certain things. Rather in truth, I likely have just been inefficient in my use of my time.

But in itself, busy doesn't mean anything if what we are busy doing isn't what we need to be doing. This alone should be justification for us to pause and ask What am I so busy doing, and more importantly, does it make a bit of difference in the bigger picture?

As we come to find out, it is actually task completion that most of our organizations are after. And therefore, we must be careful about how we use our time to accomplish as much as possible. But no matter how much as folks understand the importance of crossing the goal-line when it

comes to completing tasks, I continue to see people leading the "busy" life and therefore seldom scoring.

There are no shortage of books on the subject of time management and becoming more efficient. Some like "*The 4 Hour Work Week*," have taken the effective vs. busy debate to the extreme. For most of us however, no matter how attractive a 4 hour work week may seem, it isn't simply achievable (or perhaps even legal). However, if we can make the most of the time we spend doing whatever it is that we do, we could probably make the 40, 50, 60 or more hours that we spend each week working, way more effective.

While being busy is good (or at least it makes us feel good) it really isn't a leading indicator as to whether or not you or those that work for, and with, you are actually getting anything done.

William Penn said "Time is what we want most, but what we use worst." So rather than being busy by having meetings to plan your next meeting, instead get to the root of making things happen, by asking the following six questions as you fill up your calendar. They will help make sure you are setting yourself up to be not only busy, but productive too!

1. What are the most important things that need to be accomplished during the time period "at large?"
2. What are the key activities that will allow me to achieve these goals?
3. Have I set sufficient time aside to work on these activities?
4. Are there activities on my calendar that aren't going to help me get what is most important done?
5. Can I shift the less important calendar items to a later date, delegate them or



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remove myself altogether?

6. At the end of this time period what do I expect to have accomplished?

At the end of the day, your results are going to speak loudest. And while running around from meeting to meeting will give the perception of your being busy to those around you, the ultimate mark of your success will be what you can accomplish, not how busy you appear to be.

So start respecting the outcomes you are seeking by asking yourself the right questions and by spending your time chasing outcomes instead of activity.

Pulitzer Prize-winning American author and columnist, Dave Barry summarizes the impact of meetings very accurately when he wrote "If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the

human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be 'meetings.'

Despite my rant about meetings, please join us for The Center's Annual Meeting during Campus Fire Forum 2015 in Niagara Falls this October. I promise it won't be just "another meeting!"

Paul

Paul Martin, President

Paul D. Martin is Deputy State Fire Administrator for the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control where he served as a principle architect of New York State's nationally acclaimed Campus Fire Safety Program.

Under Paul's leadership, the staff of the Inspections and Investigations Branch is responsible for: fire and life safety inspections in a very diverse collection of facilities throughout New York State, including all colleges and universities;

performing fire investigations statewide of fatal, large loss or other significant fires; providing fire safety education and information dissemination intended to elevate the public's understanding of the danger of fire; and enforcement of the laws and regulations of the state regarding fire safety, including the world's first standard for reduce ignition propensity cigarettes.

Paul is active in the National Association of State Fire Marshals, where he serves as Vice-Chair of their Model Codes Committee and works on issues associated with fire and life safety for special needs occupancies.

Additionally, he serves as co-chair of Prevention, Advocacy, Resource and Data Exchange (PARADE), a program of the United States Fire Administration designed to foster the exchange of fire-related prevention/protection information and resources among Federal, State, and local levels of government.

He serves on the International Building Code - Means of Egress Committee for the International Code Council, where he is active in the development of the Codes promulgated under



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the auspices of the ICC.

Additionally he is a principle member of the NFPA technical committee currently drafting a new standard on Fire Prevention Unit Organization and Deployment.

Paul holds an associate degree in fire science, a bachelor of science in public administration and has an extensive portfolio of professional development education. During his fire service career spanning more than thirty years, Paul has served in multiple line and administration positions and has received several awards of valor, including the 2000 Firehouse Magazine® national grand prize for heroism.



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OFF-CAMPUS

By Tim Knisely

July 2015

Move-In Guide for Off-Campus Housing:

Living off-campus is often times the first true taste of independent living for a college student. As excited as they may be - here are some tips to follow to help make a smooth transition. For more information check with your landlord or the student affairs office for publications that will offer specific help with move-in issues.

On move in day when arriving at the property don't be in a big rush to start unloading. Make sure the property is ready for occupancy and utilize a move-in

checklist to be sure everything is in move-in condition and functioning. Be sure to note any deficiencies and even photograph or video the conditions for later use. It isn't uncommon to find items that are broken or not working properly. You need to determine if this is a significant issue that needs reported immediately, or a routine maintenance item that can be included on your checklist and fixed in the next week or two.

Some important items to inspect include:

Lighting: be sure that all switches and lights work. Note that some

receptacles are controlled by the switch, so you may need to identify the ones that are. Also check the exterior lighting to be sure these work at night. Keep in mind that some lights are controlled by sensors and not switches.

Windows: open all windows to be sure these open easily and stay open. This is especially important for the bedroom windows in the event of an emergency. Also, look for sash locks or other locking means if the windows are within six feet of grade.



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Doors: check all doors for proper operation and a tight seal. A dead bolt should be installed on all exterior doors, but be openable from the inside by using a knob - not a key. Bedroom doors may have locks depending on local codes or the owner's standards. If you aren't satisfied with the locks on any of the doors, be sure to consult with the owner before making any changes.

Kitchen: check all kitchen appliances for proper operation and cleanliness. For the stove, make sure the students living there all know how the features

work as well as the on/off indicators.

Bathroom: check all fixtures for both hot and cold water, and be sure there aren't any leaks in the drain lines or drips from the faucets.

Safety Equipment: It is best to know in advance what safety equipment is provided by the landlord or required by local code. If some items aren't required to be installed you may want to consider providing them yourself.

Smoke alarm: need to be installed in every bedroom and every level of the dwelling.

Check the date of manufacture to be sure the alarm is < 10 years old.

Carbon monoxide alarm: need to be installed near the bedrooms if a fossil fuel is used for heating, cooking, or if there is an attached garage. Check the date of manufacture to be sure the alarm hasn't expired. Some CO alarms expire at 5, 7 or 10 years depending on the manufacturer.

Fire extinguisher: a kitchen media extinguisher should be installed near the kitchen, or a multi-purpose extinguisher should be available in



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the dwelling or a nearby corridor. Tenants should know how to use an extinguisher before there is a fire.

Escape ladder: if a bedroom is on an upper floor, especially third floor - consider supplying a ladder that is designed for the proper height. Have the tenant open and deploy the ladder as a practice run, before needing to use it in the middle of the night.

Sprinklers: hopefully, your off-campus property is protected by sprinklers. Sprinklers don't require any maintenance by the tenants, but be sure to know where these are

located. Don't block the sprinkler with furniture, decorations or tapestries. Don't paint a sprinkler or the concealed cover. And remember, smoke will not activate a sprinkler.

What is expected of tenants?

Each town and property are different. Become familiar with the laws and expectations of residents within the town. If you have pets be sure to know the rules both inside your house and on neighboring property. Be a good neighbor and remember that some residents live in the town year round and

some may have children that go to bed early.

If you have any problems with your property report it to your landlord immediately. They should provide you with an emergency and non-emergency number. Always document these findings with photos (if applicable) and save your emails. If you have issues with your landlord that cannot be resolved, check with the student affairs office at your university or college. Many have a legal affairs office that can mediate civil issues or lease issues. Or, they may offer you legal advice in solving the matter.



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Last but not least, get renters insurance! This is an inexpensive policy that may save you lots of money in the event of lost possessions or if you cause damage to others, even by accident. Some parent's homeowner's policies will cover a student living on-campus - but not always when off-campus. Check to make sure before it's too late.

Have fun, stay safe and enjoy the semester!

Tim Knisely

Tim Knisely is on the Board of Directors for The Center and the Senior Fire Inspector for the Centre Region Code Administration in State College, PA.

In this position he manages the Existing Structures Division that administers the fire and property maintenance code in all existing commercial and residential rental properties, and coordinates the life safety education for the community including off-campus and Greek housing.

Tim has been active with The Center for Campus Fire Safety since its inception and served as treasurer from 2007 to 2010.

He is a frequent presenter at Campus Fire Forum, an instructor for the Fire-Wise Campus program and served as project manager for Campus Fire Data.



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THE INSPECTOR

By Phil Chandler

July 2015

What's on your summer reading list?

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Regardless, as we while away these precious, hard-earned moments, many of us will share in a summer rite of passage: stretching out with a good read and a cold beverage on the side.

Summer novels and best-selling biographies work for most folks. For many of us fire people, however, our reading list is a bit more eccentric. It contains gripping narratives of fires past, both the spectacular, history-changing conflagrations as well as of the countless obscure fires that in their own way are just as tragic.

In reading accounts of fires, be they emotionally charged prose or technical research documents, one thing becomes crystal clear: there is a great inequality between the effort put into ferreting out every last detail that may have contributed to the final outcome of the fire and the effort put into building plans review, permitting and fire inspection, if any.



As readers of this column know, the Inspector is fond of well worn, but on-target aphorisms. One that speaks volumes and has served me well is "pay me now or pay me later." For the subject at hand, let us consider a new variation of this mantra: "Inspect now, or investigate later."

For practically every fire of consequence, there are one or more contributory factors that should have been caught during a rudimentary fire inspection. If we would inspect our buildings with even half the painstaking care that goes into a post-incident investigation, we are likely to not have as many post-incident investigations.

I know, easier said than done. Believe it or not, we inspectors are only human. We get worn down by constantly fighting over the same recurring violations; none is more common than the blocked, obstructed or inoperable fire door. We simply get tired of pulling out door chocks and haranguing faculty and staff alike day in and day out. Yet we must persevere.

I am no statistician and I am no fire engineer, but I do know that compromised opening protectives, whether due to mechanical failure or human agency, contribute



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mightily to fire fatalities. They not only lead to civilian deaths, but they kill firefighters as well!

Experts and laymen alike have long understood the importance of compartmentalization. It's easy to understand that a closed door will inhibit the spread of smoke and fire from one room to another. Yet it is only in recent years that we have begun to understand just how critical a role doors play in the entire evolution of a fire from inception to extinguishment. With advanced fire modeling, we now understand how an open door on one floor of a building may trap a firefighter two floors away from the fire room.

Structure fires are living, breathing animals. Static blueprint renderings of buildings cannot portray real fire behavior. They do not adequately reflect the impact of temperature and wind on a burning building. Nor do they offer us much insight into the dynamics of a

growing fire and the pressure gradient it generates. It is only now that we are able to fully integrate all of the variables into a unified understanding of how a fire literally flows through a building. We have added, "fire flow paths" to our lexicon.

So what does this all mean to the fire inspector? It means we cannot be complacent when it comes to fire doors. If need be, we must be the Grinch. On occasion, I have been known to cut building cleaners some slack on door chocks. On every campus I visit, mopping of hallways and stairwells always involves propping open fire doors as a means of rapidly drying the surfaces, thereby preventing the need to constantly redo the floor every time some clod walks on the wet floor. I have looked the other way with a big caveat: pull out the chocks when you leave the immediate area.

Yet lo and behold, my forbearance has in many instances been rewarded with treachery! As often as not, I come upon a building with every fire door to every stairwell and every corridor wide open with the cleaning staff long gone.

Most recently, I encountered just such a circumstance. Apart from stairwells and corridors, half the resident room doors were also open, and owing to the summer heat, all of the windows were open. Folks, with a warm summer breeze blowing, this building was a catastrophe waiting to happen. A simple change in wind direction might turn a wastebasket fire into a fireball barreling down a hallway in time to greet unsuspecting firefighters entering the building.

The job of the fire safety professional is not to see buildings as they are on most days, but rather as they might be when everything goes wrong. Accordingly, we must use



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By Phil Chandler

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all of the information and research at our disposal to make sure we fully appreciate just how important the details really are. Fire inspection is serious business; we must approach each inspection as if a life hangs in the balance.

Philip Chandler is a long time firefighter and a fulltime government fire marshal working extensively in the college environment - from large public university centers to small private colleges.

His primary responsibilities include code enforcement and education. Phil welcomes your comments, thoughts and opinions (whether in agreement or opposition) to his viewpoints. He may be reached at:

<mailto:theinspector@campusfiresafety.org>

Ask the Inspector

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Simply visit the [MEMBER](#)

[LOGIN](#) section of our public website. Once logged in, look for the Town Hall Discussions and ask "The Inspector".

Note: The viewpoints expressed in The Inspector are those of the author alone. They are offered to initiate thought and debate, however, they do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of The Center for Campus Fire Safety, its officers, directors or its editorial staff.



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SECTION 404

FIRE SAFETY,

EVACUATION AND LOCKDOWN PLANS

404.1 General. Where required by Section 403, fire safety, evacuation and lockdown plans shall comply with Sections

404.2 through 404.4.1.

404.2 Contents. Fire safety and evacuation plan contents shall be in accordance with Sections 404.2.1 and 404.2.2.

404.2.1 Fire evacuation plans. Fire evacuation plans shall include the following:

1. Emergency egress or escape routes and whether evacuation of the building is to be complete by selected floors or areas only or with a defend-in place response.

2. Procedures for employees who must remain to operate critical equipment before evacuating.

3. Procedures for the use of elevators to evacuate the building where occupant evacuation elevators complying with Section 3008 of the International Building Code are provided.

4. Procedures for assisted rescue for persons unable to use the general means of egress unassisted.

5. Procedures for accounting for employees and occupants after evacuation has been completed.

6. Identification and assignment of personnel responsible for rescue or emergency medical aid.

7. The preferred and any alternative means of notifying occupants of a fire or emergency.

8. The preferred and any alternative means of reporting fires and other emergencies to the fire department or designated emergency response organization.

9. Identification and assignment of personnel who can be contacted for further information or explanation of duties under the plan.

10. A description of the emergency voice/alarm communication system alert tone and preprogrammed voice messages, where provided.

404.2.2 Fire safety plans. Fire safety plans shall include the following:

1. The procedure for



C+S and more

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reporting a fire or other emergency.

2. The life safety strategy including the following:

2.1. Procedures for notifying occupants, including areas with a private mode alarm system.

2.2. Procedures for occupants under a defend-inplace response.

2.3. Procedures for evacuating occupants, including those who need evacuation assistance.

3. Site plans indicating the following:

3.1. The occupancy assembly point.

3.2. The locations of fire hydrants.

3.3. The normal routes of fire department vehicle access.

4. Floor plans identifying

the locations of the following:

4.1. Exits.

4.2. Primary evacuation routes.

4.3. Secondary evacuation routes.

4.4. Accessible egress routes.

4.4.1. Areas of refuge.

4.4.2. Exterior areas for assisted rescue.

4.5. Refuge areas associated with smoke barriers and horizontal exits.

4.6. Manual fire alarm boxes.

4.7. Portable fire extinguishers.

4.8. Occupant-use hose stations.

4.9. Fire alarm annunciators and controls.

5. A list of major fire hazards associated with the normal use and occupancy of the premises, including maintenance and housekeeping procedures.

6. Identification and assignment of personnel responsible for maintenance of systems and equipment installed to prevent or control fires.

7. Identification and assignment of personnel responsible for maintenance, housekeeping and controlling fuel hazard sources.

404.2.3 Lockdown plans. Where facilities develop a lockdown plan, it shall be in accordance with Sections

404.2.3.1 through 404.2.3.3.



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404.2.3.1 Lockdown plan contents. Lockdown plans shall be approved by the fire code official and shall include the following:

1. Initiation. The plan shall include instructions for reporting an emergency that requires a lockdown.

2. Accountability. The plan shall include accountability procedures for staff to report the presence or absence of occupants.

3. Recall. The plan shall include a prearranged signal for returning to normal activity.

4. Communication and coordination. The plan shall include an approved means of two-way communication between a central location and each secured area.

404.2.3.2 Training frequency. The training frequency shall be included in the lockdown plan. The lockdown drills shall not substitute for any of the fire and evacuation drills required in Section 405.2.

404.2.3.3 Lockdown notification. The method of notifying building occupants of a lockdown shall be included in the plan. The method of notification shall be separate and distinct from the fire alarm signal.

404.3 Maintenance. Fire safety and evacuation plans shall be reviewed or updated annually or as necessitated by changes in staff assignments, occupancy or the physical arrangement of the building.

404.4 Availability. Fire safety and evacuation plans shall be

available in the workplace for reference and review by employees, and copies shall be furnished to the fire code official for review upon request.

404.4.1 Distribution. The fire safety and evacuation plans shall be distributed to the tenants and building service employees by the owner or owner's agent. Tenants shall distribute to their employees applicable parts of the fire safety plan affecting the employees' actions in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Next Month: SECTION 405
EMERGENCY EVACUATION
DRILLS

Page 1763



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The International Code Council, a membership association dedicated to building safety and fire prevention, develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states that adopt codes choose the International Codes developed by the International Code Council.



The Center for Campus Fire Safety

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CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY CODE TALK

Campus Fire Safety e-NewZone

Have a Plan for your Safety

By Author: Curt Floyd, NFPA (cfloyd@nfpa.org)

Okay, so it's the middle of summer and the last thing that's on your mind are college dorm rooms or off-campus housing. But you will soon be there. Whether it's your first year in college or your final year, you should have a plan for your safety. According to the Center for Campus Fire Safety, there were 7 fire deaths in on-campus facilities in the time period from 2000-2014. In a report by Richard Campbell of the National Fire Protection Association, over the period of 2007-2011, there were an estimated 3,810 structural fires reported in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks each year. These fires caused an average of \$9 million in property damage. Cooking was the cause of 84% of the fires and 29% of the injuries. Heating equipment was the cause of 23% of the injuries and smoking materials, 11%. Abandoned or discarded materials were a factor in 14% of fires, and misuse of materials was a factor in 13% of fires. Heat source too close to combustibles was a factor in 10% of these incidents, but these fires were responsible for one-quarter (25%) of injuries. These statistics do not address other off campus residences.

The majority of these fires could have easily been prevented by better awareness and education. It is part of your responsibility for practicing fire and life safety in your housing areas, that's given. But having a plan to act diligently for your own awareness and safety is being personally proactive and ultimately will help to make everyone's living area safer. It is important to make yourself aware of how these fires begin in order to understand how to prevent them and how to keep yourself alive when one occurs. This information helps to provide the motivation for your plan. The institutions of your choice will most likely have programs and information on their safety regulations regarding living spaces, it is important to research these and



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remember them. Visit your schools safety department and find out what information is available and learn how to prevent these fires and the resulting injuries.

Most institutions will have a list of what, if any, heating or cooking equipment is allowable in the dorms. Some dorms have small community kitchens. Don't use cooking equipment while impaired and stay in the kitchen when using cooking appliances. Keep any combustibles away from heat sources. Refrain from using candles, smoking materials, incense, auxiliary heaters or other like devices inside. Do not overload extension cords. In some cases extension cords are not allowed in the dorm rooms. Planning with these simple rules in mind will help to reduce one of the highest causes of fires and injuries in college residences.

You should also look for living spaces that include sprinklers. All living facilities should have smoke alarms with battery back-up and that are wired so that, when one is activated, they all provide an audible alarm. For residents with certain impairments, visual or other specific warning methods are available. When these devices sound or otherwise activate, **Get Out!** It may be easy to disregard the alarm especially if no one else is leaving but do not get complacent. Plan to get out every time! Develop the mindset of evacuation every time. Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of the residence. Never remove batteries or disable an alarm for any reason. It is also advisable to have Carbon Monoxide detectors on each level of the residence.

Remember (EDITH) exit drills in the home? Make sure you know your two closest exits and practice those routes. Make sure that these exit pathways remain clear at all times. By using different door and stair access ways you develop familiarization, in an emergency this can be lifesaving. Your plan should be to make yourself intimately aware of how to get out of the residence in an emergency and practice it routinely.



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Begin now to develop your personal plan by understanding the statistics relating to fire causes and how to prevent them and how to get out. That plan should include understanding the rules regarding campus housing, how to stay safe, and to practice these rules. By beginning now to develop an attitude of responsibility and safety around your new college living space, when you get there, it will be easier to follow your plan for staying safe. A good plan developed early will also help you develop behaviors that will keep you safe and create a safe living environment. When it comes to your safety, as Ben Franklin once said, "if you fail to plan, you are planning to fail."



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