



FACT SHEET

Program: Student/Residential Fire Safety

Every year college and university students experience a growing number of fire-related emergencies. There are several causes for these fires; however, most are due to a general lack of knowledge about fire safety and prevention.

All Students should be familiar with the following:

- All types of smoking/vaping are prohibited.
- Cooking equipment is prohibited. The City of Cambridge forbids cooking in any room or apartment not equipped with permanent cooking facilities.
- The use of candles is prohibited in House and dormitory rooms and common areas.* except in the case of those individual observing religious holiday. Students may light candles as long as they are in House common area, only with the approval of the Faculty Dean, and only as long as they are always attended.
- Halogen lamps are prohibited. The University has prohibited the use of all halogen floor lamps in all House, dormitory rooms and common areas.
- Prohibit the use of fireplaces in student rooms and suites.
- Extension cords must be in good condition and of proper rating. Cord should not be spliced, run through doorways or partitions or cover with rugs.
- Emergency exit doors within rooms/suites shall not be blocked on either side by furniture or obstruction of any kind.
- Any abuse of, or tamper with, fire alarm, smoke detectors, sprinkler system or extinguishers is strictly forbidden.
- Importance of keeping fire doors closed. Unless protected by hold open devices that allow the door to close if the alarm goes off. Keep Door CLOSED. Fire doors separate you from the fire/smoke.
- Students MUST evacuate during all fire alarms. A DELAYED evacuation could result in you becoming trapped or seriously injured.

- Fire hazards should be routinely reported to your Building Manager, Tutor or Proctor.
- Be knowledgeable of the locations of fire pull stations, primary and secondary emergency exits, and designated meeting locations outside.
- Do NOT use elevators in a fire emergency – take the fire rated stairs.

Fire safety links from the **U.S. Fire Administration:**

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/college.html>

Cooking Fire Safety



Cooking related fires are the leading cause of fires at colleges/universities in Massachusetts. **Ninety – Three percent (93%) of all dormitory fires are cooking related.**

Cook in authorized kitchenettes only.

Short links on basic cooking fire safety – what to do if a cooking related fire.

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/cooking.html>

National Fire Protection Association

National Fire Prevention Association offers safety tip sheets on a variety of fire and life safety topics.

Download, print, and share these tip sheets to spread the word about fire safety. <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/safety-tip-sheets>

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police, Fire & Medical	911
Harvard University Police Department	(617) 495-1212
University Operations Center	(617) 495-5560