

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY FACT SHEET

Between January 2000 and September 6, 2005, the Center has identified 78 fire fatalities in student housing. This includes students, parents and children. Since these fires are identified by scanning the wire services, and not all fires are identified as student-related, it is believed that the actual number is higher.

The deadliest months are April and May, when 21 deaths have occurred, followed by August and September with 19 fire deaths.

Location of fatal fires		Common threads in a number of fatal fires
Off-campus	77%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of automatic fire sprinkler systems • Missing or disabled smoke alarms • Careless disposal of smoking materials • Alcohol consumption
On-campus (residence halls)	13%	
Fraternities and sororities	10%	

Clearly, the problem lies in the off-campus occupancies where, according to the US Department of Education, approximately 2/3 of the students in the nation live.

FATAL FIRES LAST ACADEMIC YEAR (2004-2005)

Miami University	Oxford, Ohio	3 killed in an off-campus fire
University of Mississippi	Oxford, Mississippi	3 killed in a fraternity fire
Georgetown University	Washington, DC	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Penn State	State College, Pennsylvania	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Savannah College of Art and Design	Savannah, Georgia	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Southern Adventist University	Collegedale, Tennessee	1 killed in a residence hall fire
University of Maryland	College Park, Maryland	1 killed in an off-campus fire
CRAS (students were on internship)	Chicago, Illinois	3 killed in an off-campus fire

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

From 1/1/00 to 9/6/05, the fatalities identified by the Center have occurred in the following states:

Ohio	12	Mississippi	3	Iowa	1
Indiana	7	New Jersey	3	Louisiana	1
North Carolina	7	Virginia	3	Maryland	1
Pennsylvania	6	West Virginia	3	Michigan	1
California	4	Georgia	2	Missouri	1
Illinois	4	Kansas	2	Rhode Island	1
Texas	4	Kentucky	2	Tennessee	1
Massachusetts	3	New York	2		
Minnesota	3	District of Columbia	1		

SOLUTIONS

A three-pronged approach that includes **Prevention, Detection and Suppression** is needed to address the issues of fires, both on- and off-campus.

Prevention will educate students, parents and administrators about fire safe behavior.

Detection will provide the early warning needed to alert the occupants to the fire and notify the fire department to respond

Suppression-early suppression through automatic fire sprinklers-will save lives and property.

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This is an opportunity to reduce not only the current loss of life and property from fire on campuses, but also to dramatically change the impact of fire on society.

By educating today's students about fire-safe actions as well as providing them with a fire-safe environment while they are in school, they will then be more aware of the dangers from fire after they graduate.

This long-term approach to reducing fires through education and awareness will have a significant impact on reducing the over 3,900 lives lost to fire and \$12.3 billion property loss that the United States sees every year.

Through strong, aggressive efforts in fire safety on our nation's campuses we have the opportunity to make the change, now and for the future.

LEGISLATION

The following is a summary of legislation that has been introduced in Congress related to campus fire safety.

HR 128 College Fire Prevention Act

Cosponsors – 92 House This legislation calls for \$100,000,000 per year for five years in matching funds for the installation of automatic fire sprinklers or other fire suppression or prevention technologies.

HR 1131 and S 512 Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act

Cosponsors- 117 House, 12 Senate This legislation will reduce the depreciation schedule on the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system from 27 years to five years, promoting the installation of these life-saving systems.

HR 2637 and S 1196 Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act

Cosponsors 35 House, 1 Senate This legislation will have schools provide existing information about fire safety on their campuses to the US Department of Education, similar to the reporting requirements for crimes under the Clery Act. This will provide a wealth of information for parents and students when they are researching schools and help to educate them about important fire safety issues.

HR 295 and S 224 House and Senate Resolutions These resolutions will formally designate September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

The Center for Campus Fire Safety is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving fire safety on our nation's campuses through education and advocacy and is a leader in campus fire safety. Its operations are guided by a Board of Advisors made up of dedicated professionals and advocates from across the nation. The Center provides information and resources free to the public through its website at

www.campusfire.org.

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