

# CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

Updated October 28, 2007



The following information has been compiled by Campus Firewatch. Please note that much of this information is gathered by monitoring the wire services so the actual number of fatal fires, especially in off-campus occupancies, may be higher. Information regarding the fatal fires is confirmed by Campus Firewatch with local fire department officials prior to inclusion.

## Fatal Fires 2007-2008 academic year

Bradley University	West Peoria, Illinois	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Cowley College	Arkansas City, Kansas	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Univ. of South Carolina and Clemson University	Ocean Isle Beach, NC	7 killed in an off-campus house
<b>Academic year-to-date total</b>		<b>9</b>

## Most fatal year on record

The 2006-2007 academic year was the most fatal one on record, as compiled by Campus Firewatch. There were 20 campus-related fire deaths in this period with 18 of these occurring in off-campus occupancies (the other two were in fraternities).

## Fatal fires 2006-2007 academic year

University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Nebraska Wesleyan University	Lincoln, Nebraska	1 killed in a fraternity fire
University of Missouri – St. Louis	St. Louis, Missouri	1 killed in a fraternity fire
University of Nebraska – Lincoln	Lincoln, Nebraska	2 killed in an off-campus fire
Marshall University	Huntington, West Virginia	5 killed in an off-campus fire
University of Mississippi-Meridian	Linwood, Mississippi	3 killed in an off-campus fire
Halifax Community College	Weldon, North Carolina	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Boston University	Boston, Massachusetts	2 killed in an off-campus fire
Longwood University	Farmville, Virginia	2 killed in an off-campus fire
Boston University	Boston, Massachusetts	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Cincinnati State	Cincinnati, OH	1 killed in an off-campus fire
<b>Academic year total</b>		<b>20</b>

## Common Factors

According to information compiled by Campus Firewatch, over 80 percent of the campus-related fire fatalities across the nation since January 2000 have occurred in off-campus housing. Four common factors in a number of these fires include:

- Lack of automatic fire sprinklers
- Missing or disabled smoke alarms
- Careless disposal of smoking materials
- Impaired judgment from alcohol consumption

## Campus-related fire fatalities from January 2000 to present

Occupancy	Deaths	% of total
Off-campus	100	83%
Residence Hall	10	8%
Greek housing	10	8%
Other	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	

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According to the U.S. Department of Education, there are approximately 17,000,000 students enrolled in 4,100 colleges and universities across the country. Approximately 2/3 of the students live in off-campus housing.

## Geographic distribution of fire fatalities

North Carolina	17
Ohio	14
West Virginia	9
Indiana	8
Pennsylvania	7
Kansas	6
Massachusetts	6
Mississippi	6
Illinois	5
Virginia	5

California	4
Texas	4
Minnesota	3
Nebraska	3
New Jersey	3
New York	3
Alaska	2
Georgia	2
Kentucky	2
Maryland	2

Missouri	2
DC	1
Iowa	1
Louisiana	1
Michigan	1
Oklahoma	1
Oregon	1
Rhode Island	1
Tennessee	1

## Annual number of fatalities by academic year

2000-2001	17
2001-2002	14
2002-2003	14

2003-2004	11
2004-2005	14
2005-2006	11

2006-2007	20
2007-2008	9 YTD

## Catastrophic, multiple-fatality fires

Since January 2000, approximately 19% of the fires have killed 42% of the victims. In other words, a small percentage of the fires, which are classified by Campus Firewatch as catastrophic, multiple-fatality fires, are killing a large number of the victims. Most of these fires were off-campus.

1/19/00	Seton Hall University	3	5/22/04	Indiana University	3
3/19/00	Bloomsburg University	3	8/27/04	University of Mississippi	3
8/20/00	Berkeley, California	3	4/10/05	Miami University	3
11/2/01	Virginia Commonwealth Univ.	3	6/7/05	Cons. of Recording and Arts	3
2/15/02	Univ. of NC-Greensboro	4	1/13/07	Marshall University	5
4/13/03	Ohio State University	5	2/3/07	MS State Univ.-Meridian	3
9/20/03	Univ. of Minnesota-Twin Cities	3	10/28/07	U of S. Carolina and Clemson	7

## Campus Fire Safety Month 2007

The U.S. Senate, House of Representatives and 30 states issued proclamations designating September 2007 as Campus Fire Safety Month. The list of states and a map is available online at:

[www.campus-firewatch.com/stateproc-2007.html](http://www.campus-firewatch.com/stateproc-2007.html)

## Current Legislation in Congress

The following bills have been introduced in Congress. More information is available on Campus Firewatch's RESOURCE page at [www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com).

- Campus Fire Safety Month Resolutions (HRes 95 and SRes 105-**Passed**)
- Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act (HR 592 and S 354-**Passed**)
- College Fire Prevention Act (HR 642)
- Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (HR 643 and s 638)
- Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (HR 1742 and S 582)