

# Fire Safety

---

In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety and Security Act, as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, this Fire Safety report summarizes the Vanderbilt University Campus Fire Safety Program. This report includes information on fire prevention policies and practices, fire safety educational and training initiatives, an overview of fire protection equipment in the residence halls, emergency evacuation procedures, and residence hall fire safety statistics.

The Vanderbilt University Campus Fire Safety Program is managed by the Vanderbilt University Police Department Emergency Preparedness Unit. This Unit maintains all campus fire-related statistical data and works to ensure campus facilities and operations are within with the Metro Nashville Fire Department rules and regulations.

All fires on campus should be reported immediately to VUPD. Small fires within residence halls that have already been extinguished may be reported to the Office of Housing and Residential Education, which will report the fire to the Emergency Preparedness Unit for recordkeeping purposes.

## RESIDENCE HALL FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS

All Vanderbilt residence halls and Greek houses are protected by fire detection and automatic sprinkler systems. The fire detection system is designed to alert building occupants in the event of a fire and is activated by smoke detectors, sprinkler water flow, or manual pull station activation. Additionally, all fire detection systems are monitored by Plant Operations Building Systems Control (BSC), which is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. BSC will notify first responders including the Vanderbilt University Police Department and the Metro Nashville Fire Department (MNFD). Each residence hall has an adequate complement of dry chemical fire extinguishers located in common areas, multi-room suites, and mechanical and storage areas.

## STUDENT FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS

Vanderbilt University is a smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited in all buildings on campus, including university residence halls and Greek chapter houses, and on the grounds of the campus with the exception of designated outdoor smoking areas. Additional smoking policy information can be found in the *Student Handbook*. [vanderbilt.edu/student\\_handbook/university-policies-and-regulations/#smoke-free-campus](http://vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/university-policies-and-regulations/#smoke-free-campus).

**Residents must abide by the fire safety regulations outlined in the *Student Handbook* (see [vanderbilt.edu/student\\_handbook/residential-life/#general-residence-life-policies](http://vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/residential-life/#general-residence-life-policies)):**

- Combustible materials may not be stored on the premises.
- Cardboard boxes may not be used for storage of items in storage areas.
- The Metropolitan Nashville–Davidson County Fire Code prohibits the use and storage of grills within ten (10) feet of any combustible materials on any balcony or patio of a multifamily dwelling.

Use or storage of grills is prohibited on any balcony or patio, or in any residential facility.

- Motorcycles, mopeds, and other internal combustion machines may not be kept in university housing.
- Bicycles may not be stored in hallways, stairwells, or other common areas because they may block emergency egress. Bicycles may be stored in student rooms.
- Candles, other devices that produce open flames, oil lamps, and incense, are prohibited in the residence halls, and subject to confiscation, whether or not they are lit at the time they are discovered. Exceptions for registered events sponsored by university departments may be made at the discretion of the Senior Director for Housing Operations, or the director's designee.
- Walkways, stairs, and corridors must be kept clear at all times for emergency egress. Student property may not be stored in these areas.
- Heat producing appliances (coffee makers, heating pads, slow-cookers, etc.) must be attended when turned on.
- Flammable materials (e.g., sheets, blankets, bandanas, scarves), may not be used to cover or obstruct light sources, heating/cooling sources, or fire-safety fixtures.
- The university's smoke-free campus policy limits smoking to designated outdoor areas. Extinguishing or disposing of smoking materials by any means other than the urns provided is prohibited.
- Access to windows and doors must be kept clear for emergency egress.
- Emergency exits may be used by residents or guests only for emergency exit or exit during drills. Other use is prohibited.
- Failure to evacuate a building when a fire alarm sounds is prohibited.
- Additionally, the following are prohibited and will likely result in corrective action through the university's accountability process, which action may include possible suspension from the university or a prorated damage charge among the residents of a particular area if the responsible person(s) cannot be identified (see *Collective Damage*):
  - Tampering with door alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler heads, water flow or other control valves and other fire-safety equipment
  - Tampering with smoke detectors, emergency phones, building access systems, elevator systems, surveillance cameras or other safety and security equipment
  - Tube lights and string lights, except that string lights may be used under the following conditions: Such lights may be used only in individual rooms and not in common areas. The lights must be UL approved and in good condition. No more than three strands of such lights may be strung together, and they must be plugged directly into an outlet or into a surge protector that is plugged directly into an outlet.

- Items suspended from the ceilings, sprinkler heads, overhead piping, or on or near water pipes
- Use or possession of fireworks
- Disabling fire alarm systems
- Arson/igniting fires
- Tampering with or damaging fire-exit lights, signs, horns, strobes or other notification devices
- Tampering with or obstructing emergency-exit doors

## FIRE SAFETY RULES FOR ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

### Approved Appliances

Electric-powered appliances such as radios, sound systems, TVs, electric blankets, clocks, lamps, and coffee makers with enclosed heating elements are permitted in residence hall rooms. All appliances used in campus residences must be in good condition, with special attention given to seals, electrical cords, and plugs. Only power strips with circuit breakers may be used as extension cords.

Additional approved electrical appliances include:

- Microwave ovens (800-watt maximum and interior capacity of one cubic foot)
- Refrigerators (4-foot capacity)

*The residential staff may require that any appliance be placed in storage if the manner in which the appliance is used causes interruption of service or endangers the health, safety, or well-being of the residential community.*

### Restricted Appliances

Electric powered appliances with exposed heating elements and grills (either outdoor or indoor use, including "George Foreman" grills and similar devices) are prohibited. Appliances that draw a large amount of current from each circuit, such as hot plates, air conditioners, and electric heaters are prohibited. Additional restricted electrical appliances include:

- Halogen lamps or halogen light sources
- Washing machines
- Dryers
- Water-heating elements

*The Senior Director of Housing, Facilities Operation, and Management reserves the option of revoking authorization for the use of any appliance in individual buildings or throughout the residential campus.*

## FIRE SAFETY RULES FOR FURNISHINGS

Student-owned furniture brought into campus residences and Greek houses must meet the hospitality/contract-grade furniture fire-safety specifications of either the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 260 or the California Technical Bulletin 117, section E. Furniture that complies with either standard will be appropriately tagged by the manufacturer.

## RESIDENTIAL FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### Residential Staff Training

Prior to the beginning of each fall semester, the Vanderbilt University Police Department Emergency Preparedness Unit provides fire safety training for all Residential Advisers (RAs). Topics covered include RA fire safety responsibilities, fire safety rules, evacuation procedures, fire drills, and extinguisher training.

### Student Resident Training

The following instructions are posted in every student's residence room on campus:

#### FIRE EVACUATION

When you hear a fire alarm or see smoke and fire:

- Exit the building immediately using the nearest exit.
- **Never** use an elevator as an exit during a fire.
- Feel each door as you approach. Never open a hot door.
- If the hallway or stairwell is smoky, seek another path or await rescue in your room.
- Once outside, proceed to the Area Rally Point. Never re-enter the building.

At the start of each fall semester, RA's are instructed to review the Evacuation Fire Safety Fact Sheet with residents of their floor during the first Residence Hall Meeting.

At the start of each fall semester, the Vanderbilt University Police Department Emergency Preparedness Unit provides fire safety training for all Greek House Officers. This training covers fire prevention, fire-safe party décor, and evacuation safety.

### Fire Drills

Fire drills are conducted each fall semester in every Vanderbilt residence hall. The drills are planned and coordinated by the Vanderbilt University Police Department Emergency Preparedness Unit, with input and assistance from the Senior Director of Residential Education, his associate directors and the area coordinators for each residential area. The area coordinators have RAs check all residence rooms to assure that all residents have responded and make observations of conditions affecting the drill. BSC staff members activate the alarms and then check operating condition of fire alarm annunciators (audible and visual alarms) in each residence hall being drilled. In the fall of 2014, fire drills were conducted in all residence halls at Vanderbilt University.

Greek Houses with only six or seven residents are not required to conduct fire drills under local codes. However, we do offer to conduct a drill for Greek Houses when requested.

## 2014 FIRE INCIDENT SUMMARY

During 2014, one fire occurred in Vanderbilt University housing, causing no damage or injuries. For further information see the chart below:

Date	Residence Hall	Room/Floors	Description	Injuries	Deaths	Total Damage
11/13/2014	Chaffin Apartments	Room 122F	While attempting to re-heat a pizza, a pizza box was accidentally set on fire from being placed in an oven. The fire was immediately extinguished and no damage occurred to the oven or the building.	0	0	\$0
<b>Totals</b>						
				0	0	\$0

## 2012-2014 FIRE STATISTICS

The following chart summarizes all fires occurring in residence halls or Greek houses from 2012 through 2014. Within that time period, there

were a total of eight fires, none of which caused any injuries. Only two of the fires resulted in significant damage to property, in both cases primarily caused by water damage from the sprinkler system.

Incident Date	Location	Narrative	Injuries	Deaths	Total Damage
	Currey Hall 103 21st Ave. S (razed 2012)				
	Dyer Hall 105 21st Ave. S (razed 2012)				
	Hemingway Hall 101 21st Ave. S (razed 2012)				
	Kissam Hall 2109 West End Ave. (razed 2012)				
	Mims Hall 2105 West End Ave. (razed 2012)				
	Reinke Hall 2101 West End Ave. (razed 2012)				
	Vanderbilt Hall 2211 West End Ave.				
	Barnard Hall 2211 West End Ave.				
04/03/2013	Cole Hall 2304 Vanderbilt Place	The resident had a candle burning in the room that ignited a curtain, blinds, and a chair.	0	0	\$157
	Mc Gill Hall 310 West Side Row				
	McTyeire Hall 414 24th Ave. S.				
	Tolman Hall 320 West Side Row				
	Tower 1 2321 West End Ave				
	Tower 2 2321 West End Ave				
	Tower 3 2401 West End Ave				
02/14/2013	Tower 4 2401 West End Ave	This incident was caused by the disposal of smoking refuse.	0	0	\$0
	Lupton House 2401 Vanderbilt Place				
04/26/2013	Scales House 311 24th Ave S	Two residents were packing up their belongings, when the packing paper was ignited by a candle they had burning in the room. This fire produced smoke causing the smoke detector to activate prior to being able to extinguish the fire.	0	0	\$0

Incident Date	Location	Narrative	Injuries	Deaths	Total Damage
	Stapleton House 315 24th Ave S				
	Vaughn House 313 24th Ave. S				
	Chaffin Place A 1406A 25th Ave. S				
	Chaffin Place B 1406B 25th Ave. S				
09/01/2012	Chaffin Place C 1406C 25th Ave. S	Food in the oven caught fire.	0	0	\$0
	Chaffin Place D 1406D 25th Ave. S				
	Chaffin Place E 1406E 25th Ave. S				
11/13/2014	Chaffin Place F 1406F 25th Ave. S	While attempting to re-heat a pizza, a pizza box was accidentally set on fire from being placed in an oven. The fire was immediately extinguished and no damage occurred to the oven or the building.	0	0	\$0
10/05/2013	Lewis House 1410 25th Ave. S	A resident was cooking with oil and left it unattended for a short while. When the resident returned, it was in flames. The sprinkler system activated to contain and extinguish the fire. Multiple floors and rooms received water damage.	0	0	\$36,587.24
	Mayfield Place A 1412A 25th Ave. S				
	Mayfield Place B 1412B 25th Ave. S				
	Mayfield Place C 1412C 25th Ave. S				
	Mayfield Place D 1412D 25th Ave. S				
	Mayfield Place E 1412E 25th Ave. S				
	Morgan House 1408 25th Ave. S				
	Blakemore House 2818 Vanderbilt Place				
	Crawford House 1910 South Dr.				
	East House 1920 South Dr.				
	Hank Ingram House 1401 18th Ave. S				
05/22/2013	Gillette House 1900 Horton Ave.	A visitor of the resident lit a candle. The candle ignited a backpack which further spread to bedding, rug, and a curtain-like sheet hanging on the side of the bed. The fire produced enough heat to activate one of the two sprinkler heads in the room and extinguished the fire. Water significantly impacted the majority of the residence hall.	0	0	\$99,875.00
	Memorial House 1910 Horton Ave.				
	Murray House 1501 18th Ave. S				
	North Hall 1300 21st Ave S				

<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Total Damage</b>
04/19/2012	Stambaugh House 1405 18th Ave. S	A student lit a roll of toilet paper and then decided to place it in an empty trash can to extinguish it. A professor removed the trash can from the building because of the smoky smell. The roll reignited in the can on the patio and was extinguished by the Area Maintenance Supervisor.	0	0	\$50
	Sutherland House 1900 South Dr.				
	West House 1400 21st Ave. S				
	Delbruck Hall 105 21st Ave. S				
	Elliston Hall 105 21st Ave. S				
	Rice Hall 2101 West End Ave.				
	Smith Hall 2101 West End Ave.				
	Alpha Epsilon Pi 209 24th Ave. S				
	Alpha Tau Omega 2422 Kensington Pl.				
	Beta Theta Pi 210 24th Ave. S				
	Delta Kappa Epsilon 101 24th Ave. S				
	Kappa Alpha 201 24th Ave. S				
	Kappa Sigma 213 24th Ave. S				
	Lambda Chi Alpha 2411 Kensington Place				
	NPHC Fraternities 308 West Side Row				
	Phi Delta Theta 200 25th Ave. S				
	Phi Kappa Psi 103 24th Ave. S				
	Pi Beta Phi 2408 Kensington Place				
	Sigma Alpha Epsilon 2500 Kensington Place				
	Sigma Chi 2420 Vanderbilt Place				
	Sigma Nu 2412 Kensington Place				
	Zeta Beta Tau 2419 Kensington Place				
	Alpha Chi Omega 2414 Vanderbilt Place				
	Alpha Delta Pi 2410 Vanderbilt Place				
	Alpha Omicron Pi 2415 Kensington Place				
	Chi Omega 2416 Vanderbilt Place				
	Delta Delta Delta 120 24th Ave. S				

<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Total Damage</b>
	New Occ. Unknown (Delta Gamma) 304 West Side Row				
	Kappa Alpha Theta 204 24th Ave. S				
	Kappa Delta 203 24th Ave. S				
	Kappa Kappa Gamma 2416 Kensington Place				
	NPHC Sorority 300 West Side Row				
	Zeta Tau Alpha 118 24th Ave. S				