
Smoking

- Though smoking causes only 2% of Residence Hall and Greek house fires across the country, smoking fires account for almost 39 % of fire fatalities in those occupancies.
- Beside the potential for fires caused by carelessly discarded smoking refuse and persons falling asleep while smoking in bed, there is the health implications from inhaling cigarette smoke (even second hand).

Avoid Smoking Fires!

- Smoking is prohibited inside all Vanderbilt campus buildings.
- Smoking outside of designated smoking areas is prohibited. If you must smoke, please do so outside in one of the designated smoking areas.



Candles and Incense

- Over the last decade, candle fires have more than tripled from the 5,500 reported in 1990. The *National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)* indicates that residential candle fire incidents occur most often in the bedroom (45.2%).
- Most of these fires occur when a lit candle or incense is left unattended:
 - Candles overheat and/or the glass containers can break, igniting the surrounding combustibles.
 - Candles and incense sticks or holders are easily overturned and set fire to nearby combustibles.
 - A breeze from nearby windows or air currents from fans blow curtains or other light, loose combustible materials into contact with the flame or smoldering incense.
- According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 3% of all burning candles may potentially emit unsafe levels of lead. In the past, many candles imported into this country used leaded wick reinforcing wire. Though this is no longer allowed, some candles with lead wire may still be found.
- Since 2001, there have been 2 candle fires at Vanderbilt. Fires started when
 - A student used a candle to help eliminate the smell of spoiled food. When she left the burning candle unattended, it started a fire. Though there were no injuries, the fire did considerable damage to her belongings.
 - A candle was left burning in an office after hours.

Avoid Candle and Incense Fires!

- Candle and incense use is prohibited in Campus Residence Halls and Medical Center buildings. Don't bring candles into your room, even as a decoration.
- Event planners should consult with VEHS before any proposed use of candles for campus special events and ceremonies.

