



VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY

## 2010 FIRE SAFETY REPORT

### Introduction

Per requirements for Fire Safety Reporting in Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), public law 110-315 in August of 2008, this report details elements of the Vanderbilt University Campus Fire Safety Program and 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, fire safety statistics, and proposed plans for future improvements to the student residence fire safety program.



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## Vanderbilt Student Residence Building Fire Safety Systems

All Vanderbilt Residence Halls and Greek Houses are protected throughout by automatic sprinkler systems. Each building also has an adequate compliment of multipurpose dry chemical extinguishers in common areas, throughout the halls, and in mechanical and storage areas. Multi-room suites have an extinguisher in the common area.

Every one of these student residence buildings is also fully covered by a fire alarm system that reports to the Plant Operations Building Systems Controls (BSC), an alarm monitoring station that is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. These alarm systems are activated by detection of smoke by detectors located throughout each building, sprinkler water flow, or activation of a fire alarm manual pull station. The alarm systems warn occupants, while BSC initiates notification of the Vanderbilt University Police Department (VUPD) and the Nashville Fire department.

## Fire Safety Rules for Student Residents (2010)

Vanderbilt is a [Smoke-Free Campus](#).



Smoking is prohibited inside all buildings on campus, including residence halls and Greek houses. ([Student Handbook, Chapter 1](#)) Smoking is also prohibited outside on the Vanderbilt campus, with the exception of [designated smoking locations](#). Additional smoking areas for campus residents are indicated [on this map](#).

**Residents must abide by the fire safety practices and regulations listed below.**

*The following information was extracted from [Chapter 4 of the Student Handbook](#).*

- 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 open flames, oil lamps, and incense, are prohibited in the residence halls.
- 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 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.
- Fire doors may be used by residents or guests only for emergency exit or exit during drills.
- Failure to evacuate a building when a fire alarm sounds is prohibited.

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- Additionally, the following actions are prohibited and will likely result in disciplinary sanctions, including 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:
  - 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 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 Electric Appliances**

Small items such as radios, sound systems, electric blankets, clocks, lamps, and coffee makers with enclosed heating elements are permitted in rooms, but no appliances with exposed heating elements, or grills (for either outdoor or indoor use, including "George Foreman" grills and like devices), are allowed. Appliances that draw a large amount of current from each circuit, such as hot plates, air conditioners, electric heaters, and instant water-heating elements, are prohibited. In addition, washers, dryers, and dishwashers are not allowed. Microwave ovens less than six years old, having a maximum power of no more than 800 watts and an interior capacity of no more than one cubic foot are permitted. Refrigerators less than six years old that have no more than a four-cubic-foot capacity may be used. The residential staff of a building 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 members of the residential community.

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. In consideration of fire safety, halogen lamps or light sources are prohibited in campus residences. 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) standard 260, or the California Technical Bulletin 117, section E. (Furniture that complies with either standard will be appropriately tagged by the manufacturer.)

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## Residential Fire Safety Education and Training

### 1. Residential Staff Training

Prior to the beginning of each Fall Semester, the Vanderbilt Fire Safety Coordinator provides fire safety training for all Residential Advisors (RA). Topics covered include RA Fire Safety responsibilities, Fire Safety Rules, evacuation procedures, fire drills and extinguisher training.

### 2. Student Resident Training

- a. In 2010 all first undergraduate students were assigned the newly revised and updated Vanderbilt Burning Issues, an online fire safety training which emphasizes evacuation procedures, fire safety rules and fire prevention responsibilities.
- b. 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 Assembly Point. Never reenter the building.

Additional fire safety information can be found on the VU Fire Safety website at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/firesafety>.

- c. At the start of fall semester, RA's are asked to review the [Evacuation Safety Fire Safety Fact Sheet](#) with residents of their floor during the first Residence Hall Meeting.
- d. At the first of each Fall Semester the Fire Safety Coordinator also provides fire safety training for all Greek House Officers (the 6 officers for each chapter are the only student occupants for each Fraternity and Sorority house). This training covers fire prevention, fire safe party decor and evacuation safety.
- e. Each September is recognized as Vanderbilt Fire Safety Month. RA's post featured [Fire Safety Fact Sheets](#) on bulletin boards in residence halls. Fire Safety topics are also emphasized through email tips and InnerVU articles.

### 3. Fire Drills

Fire Drills are conducted each Fall semester in every Vanderbilt Residence Hall. The drills are planned, coordinated and evaluated by the Vanderbilt Fire Safety Coordinator, with input and assistance from the Senior Director of Residential Education, his Associate Directors and the Area Coordinators for each Residential Area. Vanderbilt Environmental Health & Safety (VEHS) staff members assist in timing and observing the student response to unannounced alarms. The Area Coordinators have RA's check all residence hall rooms to assure that all residents have responded and make observations of conditions affecting the drill. BSC staff members activate alarms and then check operating condition of fire alarm annunciators (audible and visual alarms) in each residence hall being drilled.

Greek Houses with only 6 or 7 residents are not required to conduct fire drills under local codes. However, we do offer to either conduct a drill for Houses that request one.

In Fall 2010, fire drills were held in all 44 residence halls.

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## 2010 Fire Statistics

Date	Residence Hall	Room/Floors	Description	Injuries	Deaths	Total Damages
3/26/2010	Phi Kappa Sigma	Porch & 1st	Intentional: Someone set a couch on the porch on fire & drippings from burning banner ignited a small inside fire.	0	0	\$500.00
04/04/2010	Lewis House	511	Unintentional: Cooking - Unattended roasting oats ignited in oven. RA extinguished.	0	0	0
04/04/2010	Lewis House	903 (kitchenette)	Unintentional: Cooking – Overheated oil on the stove. Resident extinguished with unit extinguisher.	0	0	0
10/12/2010	Lewis House	606	Unintentional – Cooking on stove and dropped food on burner. Resident extinguished fire.	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	4			0	0	\$500.00

The four minor fires above were the only student residence fire incidents reported in 2010. Three fires were cooking fires, all in Lewis Hall.

## Fire Incident Reporting

After evacuating to the Area Assembly Point, students are instructed to call 911 from a campus emergency phone to report important information to emergency responders. If using a cell phone, they are instructed to call 421-1911.

Once VUPD Dispatch has been contacted by BSC and the information has been relayed to the Metropolitan Nashville Fire Department and VUPD officers for response, the dispatchers initiate call trees appropriate for the scope of the incident. They will typically contact Randal Tarkington, Senior Director of Housing and Residential Education, and the Associate Director responsible for the residence hall involved. Other Housing and Residential Education and/or Dean of Students staff would be contacted depending on the scope of the incident. As the incident progresses, VUPD would also contact the VEHS Emergency Pager Officer, who in turn would advise David Price, Fire Safety Coordinator. The Risk Management staff member on call would also be paged.

In the meantime, BSC would contact the Plant Operations Zone Manager and other appropriate Plant Operations management staff, to deal with facility repair issues.

## 2011 Fire Safety Program Improvement Plans

1. Following the 2010 Fire Drills, the Fire Safety Coordinator and Housing and Residential Education senior staff reviewed each residence area's drill results. In 2011 fire drill procedures will be reviewed and we will be hold meetings with each Associate Director's Area Coordinators to seek their feedback and suggestions for Drill improvement.
2. We will be providing more information and instruction to Area Coordinators, so that their incident reports may be used as supplemental information on suspected Residential Fires.
3. Provide Cooking Safety Training for the Highland Quad residents in Spring, 2011.



**Vanderbilt University**

**Fire Statistics**

**2009-2010**

# Vanderbilt University Fire Statistics 2009-2010

Residential Buildings	Reported Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire Damage	Injuries	Deaths	Property
Currey Hall - 103 21st Ave S						
Dyer Hall - 105 21st Ave S						
Hemmingway Hall - 101 21st Ave S						
Kissam Hall - 2109 West End Ave.						
Mims Hall - 2105 West End Ave.						
Reinke Hall - 2101 West End Ave.						
Vanderbilt Hall - 2211 West End Ave.						
Barnard Hall - 2211 West End Ave.						
Cole Hall - 2304 Vanderbilt Place						
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						
Tower 4 - 2401 West End Ave						
Lupton House _ 2401 Vanderbilt Pl						
Scales House - 311 24th Ave S						
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						
Chaffin Place C - 1406C 25th Ave S						
Chaffin Place D - 1406D 25th Ave S						
Chaffin Place - E - 1406E 25th Ave S						
Chaffin Place F - 1406F 25th Ave S						

## Vanderbilt University Fire Statistics 2009-2010

Residential Buildings	Reported Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire Damage	Injuries	Deaths	Property
Lewis House - 1410 25th Ave S	3	1	Unintentional: Unattended Roasting oats ignited in oven. RA extinguished.	0	0	\$500.00
		2	Unintentional: Over-heated oil on stove. Resident extinguished it with portable fire extinguisher.	0	0	0
		3	Unintentional: Cooking on the stove and dropped food onto the burner. Resident extinguished the flame.	0	0	0
Mayfield Place A - 1412A 25TH Ave S	1	1	Unintentional: Heating equipment - Overheated HVAC blower motor.	0	0	\$500.00
Mayfield Place B - 1412B 25TH Ave S						
Mayfield Place C - 1412C 25TH Ave S						
Mayfield Place D - 1412D 25TH Ave S						
Mayfield Place - 1412E 25TH Ave SE						
Morgan House - 1408 25TH AVE S	1	1	Unintentional: Employee left empty microwave on, causing overheating & smoke.			\$625.00
Crawford House - 1910 South Dr						
East House - 1920 South Dr						
Hank Ingram House - 1401 18th Ave S						
Gillette House - 1900 Horton Ave						
Memorial House- 1910 Horton Ave						
Murray House - 1501 18th Ave S						
North Hall - 1300 21st Ave S						
Stambaugh House - 1405 18th Ave S						
Sutherland House - 1900 South Dr						
West House - 1400 21st Ave S						
Alpha Epsilon Pi - 209 24th Ave S						



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Residential Buildings	Reported Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire Damage	Injuries	Deaths	Property
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 Pl						
NPHC Fraternities - 308 West Side Row						
Phi Delta Theta - 200 25th Ave S						
Phi Kappa Psi - 103 24th Ave S						
New Occupant Unknown - 208 24th Ave S						
Pi Beta Phi - 2408 Kensington Place	1		Intentional: Someone set a couch on the porch on fire & drippings from banner used to set the porch fire ignited small fire in the meeting room	0	0	\$500.00
Sigma Alpha Epsilon - 2500 Kensington Pl						
Sigma Chi - 2420 Vanderbilt PL						
Sigma Nu - 2412 Kensington Pl						
Zeta Beta Tau - 2419 Kensington Pl						
Alpha Chi Omega - 2414 Vanderbilt Pl						
Alpha Delta Pi - 2410 Vanderbilt Pl						
Alpha Omicron Pi - 2415 Kensington Pl						
Chi Omega -2416 Vanderbilt Pl						
Delta Delta Delta - 120 24th Ave S						

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Residential Buildings	Reported Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire Damage	Injuries	Deaths	Property
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 Pl						
NPC Sorority - 300 West Side Row						
Zeta Tau Alpha - 118 24th Ave S						
<b>Total 70 Buildings</b>	6			0	0	\$2125.00