

2012 Vanderbilt University Fire Safety Report

Introduction

Per requirements for Fire Safety Reporting in the 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.

During 201, the 6 residence halls in Kissam Quad were razed to make way for the construction of College Halls Phase 2. Those 2 new residential buildings are slated for completion during the summer 2014. Also during the summer, Blakemore House with capacity of 133 residents was added for Fall Semester occupancy.



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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 a complement of multipurpose dry chemical extinguishers in their designated common areas.

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 (2012)

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 areas. Additional smoking areas for campus residents can be found at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd/main/housing/housing-policies/smoke-free-policy/>

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) 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. 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://emergency.vanderbilt.edu/vu/fire/>.

- b. At the start of fall semester, RA's are asked to review the Evacuation Fire Safety Fact Sheet with residents of their floor during the first Residence Hall Meeting.
- c. All first year students were assigned the Vanderbilt Burning Issues, an online fire safety training module, prior to the start of Fall Semester.
- 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 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 conduct a drill for Houses when requested. In the fall of 2012, fire drills were conducted in all 39 residence halls at Vanderbilt University.

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2012 Fire Statistics

Date	Residence Hall	Room/Floors	Description	Injuries	Deaths	Total Damages
4/19/2012	Stambaugh House	107 & Patio Area	Intentional: Student playfully lit a roll of toilet paper in the 1 st floor classroom before class. He quickly put it out and threw the roll in a metal trash can. After class started, the roll started smoldering in the metal trash can and the professor removed the can to the patio. While awaiting arrival of the Housing Area Maintenance Supervisor, the roll reignited. The Area Maintenance Manager quickly put out the fire with an extinguisher and water from a nearby water spigot.	0	0	\$50.00
9/1/2012	Chaffin C	Apartment C 421	Unintentional: Food cooking in the oven ignited; resident extinguished using apt. fire extinguisher.	0	0	\$50.00
Totals				0	0	\$100.00

Fire Incident Reporting

After evacuating to the Area Assembly Point, students are instructed to call 911 from any campus phone to report important information to emergency responders. If using a cell phone, they are instructed to call (615) 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 Randall 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 Dispatchers will also contact a representative of the VUPD Emergency Preparedness Unit. The Risk Management on-call staff member will be paged too.

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

Fire Safety Program Improvement Plans

Continue to emphasis of Cooking Safety Training by:

- a. Emphasize Cooking Safety in RA training.
- b. Coordinate the Vanderbilt University Fire Safety Month, urge RA's to disseminate Cooking Safety Tips in e-mails, newsletter and Residence Hall meeting formats.

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Vanderbilt University Fire Statistics 2010-2012

Residential Buildings	Reported Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire Damage	Injuries	Deaths	Property Damage
Currey Hall - 103 21st Ave. S (raised 2010)						
Dyer Hall - 105 21st Ave. S (raised 2010)						
Hemmingway Hall - 101 21st Ave. S (raised 2010)						
Kissam Hall - 2109 West End Ave. (raised 2010)						
Mims Hall - 2105 West End Ave. (raised 2010)						
Reinke Hall - 2101 West End Ave. (raised 2010)						
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						

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Residential Buildings	Reported Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire Damage	Injuries	Deaths	Property Damage
Tower 2 - 2321 West End Ave						
Tower 3 - 2401 West End Ave						
Tower 4 - 2401 West End Ave	1	1	Unintentional: When a resident cooking onions in a pan in a small amount of oil was distracted by a call, the pan contents caught on fire. The resident extinguished the fire with water.	0	0	\$0
Lupton House _ 2401 Vanderbilt Place						
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	1	1	Unintentional: Food cooking in the oven ignited.	0	0	\$0
Chaffin Place D - 1406D 25th Ave. S						
Chaffin Place - E - 1406E 25th Ave. S						
Chaffin Place F - 1406F 25th Ave. S						
Lewis House - 1410 25th Ave. S	3	1	Unintentional: Unattended Roasting oats ignited in oven.	0	0	\$500.00
		2	Unintentional: Over-heated oil on stove. Resident extinguished it	0	0	\$50.00

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Residential Buildings	Reported Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire Damage	Injuries	Deaths	Property Damage
			with portable fire extinguisher.			
		3	Unintentional: Cooking on the stove and dropped food onto the burner.	0	0	\$50.00
Mayfield Place A - 1412A 25TH Ave. S						
Mayfield Place B - 1412B 25TH Ave. S						
Mayfield Place C - 1412C 25th Ave. S	1	1	Intentional: About 20 persons were playing the Rock Band video game, which uses drumsticks. Someone in the group placed a wooden drumstick in microwave and turned it on for over an hour and the drumstick ignited.	0	0	
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						
Gillette House - 1900 Horton Ave.						
Memorial House- 1910 Horton Ave.						

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Residential Buildings	Reported Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire Damage	Injuries	Deaths	Property Damage
Murray House - 1501 18th Ave. S						
North Hall - 1300 21st Ave S						
Stambaugh House - 1405 18th Ave. S	1	1	Intentional: A student lit a roll of toilet paper in a Stambaugh classroom and then decided to place it in an empty trash can and put the fire out. Later when class had begun, his professor removed the trash can from the building because of the smoky smell. The roll reignited in the can on the residence hall patio and was extinguished more thoroughly by the Area Maintenance Supervisor.	0	0	\$50.00
Sutherland House - 1900 South Dr.						
West House - 1400 21st Ave. S						
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 Pl.						
NPHC Fraternities - 308 West Side Row						

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Residential Buildings	Reported Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire Damage	Injuries	Deaths	Property Damage
Phi Delta Theta - 200 25th Ave. S						
Phi Kappa Psi - 103 24th Ave. S						
Unassigned since 2010 (Formerly PKS) 208 24th Ave. S	1	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
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						
New Occ. Unknown (Delta Gamma) - 304						

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Residential Buildings	Reported Fires	Fire Number	Cause of Fire Damage	Injuries	Deaths	Property Damage
West Side Row						
Kappa Alpha Theta - 204 24th Ave. S						
Kappa Delta - 203 24th Ave. S						
Kappa Kappa Gamma - 2416 Kensington Place						
NPC Sorority - 300 West Side Row						
Zeta Tau Alpha - 118 24th Ave. S						
Total 71 Buildings	8			0	0	\$2150.00