

# The 2021 Annual Fire Safety Report- University of Maryland, College Park, MD

The ***Higher Education Opportunity Act*** requires institutions that maintain on-campus student housing facilities to publish an annual fire safety report that contains information about campus fire safety practices and standards of the institution.

## A. 2018-2020 FIRE STATISTICS FOR ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING FACILITIES

DATE	LOCATION	CAUSE	INJURIES*	DEATHS	PROPERTY DAMAGE
2/5/18	South Campus Commons 2	Unintentional - Burned tortilla in toaster oven	0	0	\$30.00
2/6/18	Prince Frederick Hall	Undetermined - Wastepaper basket fire in bathroom	0	0	\$10.00
9/17/18	La Plata Hall	Unintentional - Burned power strip	0	0	\$10.00
10/22/18	Leonardtwn 247	Intentional - Burned smoke alarm	0	0	\$20.00
10/26/18	6 Fraternity Drive	Unintentional - Dishwasher fire	0	0	\$2,500.00
12/7/18	Calvert Hall	Undetermined - Wood chair with foam padding in living room smoking materials	0	0	\$5,000.00
1/2/2019	South Campus Commons 2	Intentional - Burned decal on front door glass	0	0	\$100.00
3/1/2019	Allegany Hall	Unintentional - Burned plastic container in microwave oven	0	0	\$10.00
3/28/2019	Prince Frederick Hall	Intentional - Bulletin boards attempted burning	0	0	\$6.00
4/14/2019	Hagerstown Hall	Intentional - Burned poster and door	0	0	\$101.00
4/28/2019	Hagerstown Hall	Unintentional - Faulty power strip burned hole in mattress	0	0	\$118.50
9/18/2019	Leonardtwn 240	Unintentional - Burned food in oven	0	0	\$50.00

10/15/2019	11 Fraternity Drive	Unintentional - Bag of cereal left on toaster oven	0	0	\$1.00
11/7/2019	South Campus Commons 3	Unintentional - Oven mitt left on stove burner	0	0	\$5.00
5/9/2020	Calvert Hall	Unintentional – Mirror reflecting sun ignited combustibles on desk	0	0	\$75,000
5/18/2020	4318 Rowalt Drive	Unintentional – HVAC fire	0	0	\$3000.00
7/16/2020	3410 Tulane Drive	Unintentional – Boiling nebulizer left unattended on stove	0	0	\$40.00
12/9/2020	6 Fraternity Drive	Unintentional – Microwave oven fire	0	0	\$375.00

\*Injuries that resulted in treatment at a medical facility

**B. DESCRIPTION OF ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS:**

- I. Each Department of Residential Facilities/Resident Life housing facility has the following:
  - a. Complete automatic sprinkler system
  - b. Fire alarm system monitored by the UMD Department of Public Safety (UMDPS)
  - c. Smoke alarm in each sleeping room, interconnected and in common areas in suites and apartments
  - d. Egress corridors and stairwells are fire rated
  - e. Residents with disabilities are accommodated according to their needs
  
- II. Each University-owned fraternity and sorority housing facility has the following:
  - a. Complete automatic sprinkler system
  - b. Fire alarm system monitored by the UMD Department of Public Safety
  - c. Smoke alarm in each sleeping room
  - d. Egress corridors and stairwells are fire rated
  - e. Residents with disabilities are accommodated according to their needs
  
- III. Each Public/Private Partnership (South Campus Commons and the Courtyards at UMD) facility has the following:
  - a. Complete automatic sprinkler system
  - b. Fire alarm system monitored by commercial central station monitoring service
  - c. Smoke alarm in each sleeping room, interconnected and in common areas
  - d. Egress corridors and stairwells are fire rated
  - e. Residents with disabilities are accommodated according to their needs

- IV. Graduate Gardens and Graduate Hills apartment buildings managed by a private property management company have the following:
- a. Complete automatic sprinkler system
  - b. Fire alarm system monitored by an approved monitoring company
  - c. Smoke alarms in each apartment
  - d. Egress corridors and stairwells are fire rated
- C. NUMBER OF REGULAR MANDATORY SUPERVISED FIRE DRILLS: Each on-campus undergraduate housing facility has a fire evacuation drill once a semester. Additionally, each fraternity and sorority house associated with the university but located off-campus has one drill a semester. Buildings with yearlong occupancy have an additional drill in the summer. The UMD Fire Marshal's Office coordinates and evaluates these drills. During the COVID-19 pandemic, procedures for conducting drills were modified. Instead of being unannounced, residents received an email notification of what evening the drill would be conducted. Any resident experiencing any flu like symptoms was encouraged to shelter in place. Buildings used for isolation and quarantine housing were not evacuated. An email notification was sent to these residents with instructions of what to do during a fire emergency. The time to conduct each drill was limited to 5 minutes and residents were required to maintain social distancing and wear a mask. A total of 137 drills were conducted in on-campus housing during the 2020 calendar year.
- D. POLICIES ON PORTABLE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, SMOKING AND OPEN FLAMES:
- On-campus undergraduate housing facilities have prohibitions against the following activities:
1. Smoking inside and outside
  2. Using lighted candles or other open flame devices
  3. Cooking in unapproved areas (bedrooms) including use of toaster ovens and appliances with an open heating element. Microwaves are allowed in some areas
  4. Use of space heaters (Except when issued by Residential Facilities or other housing management for emergency outages of heat)
  5. Misuse of extension cords
  6. Tampering with or blocking any fire protection equipment
  7. Possession, use or manufacture of explosive, flammable or harmful materials
  8. Use, charging, or storing of electronic scooters and skateboards including hover boards
- E. PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT HOUSING EVACUATION IN CASE OF A FIRE:
- When the building fire alarm is activated, residents are expected to:
- Exit the building, closing the room door on the way out.
  - Use the stairs, not elevators. Once in the stairwell, do not re-enter the building. Use the fire exit door at the bottom of the stair that goes directly to the outside.
  - Once outside, go to the Assembly Area for the building and wait for instructions from housing staff.

- Housing staff will call 911 to report the fire. If there is no housing staff available, a resident will call to report the fire. University of Maryland Department of Public Safety (UMDPS) is the Emergency Communications Center for the University of Maryland. UMDPS can be reached by calling 911 on a campus phone, using a blue light emergency phone, or calling (301) 405-3333 on a mobile phone. The fire alarm systems are monitored by the Department of Public Safety.

Residents who see fire or smoke are expected to pull the nearest building fire alarm and evacuate the building as described above. Residents with information about a fire or who are trapped will call UMDPS. All fires, even those found extinguished, are to be reported.

Additional information is available on the following websites:

[reslife.umd.edu/emergency/preparedness/](https://reslife.umd.edu/emergency/preparedness/)  
[Fire Safety | 4Service \(umd.edu\)](#)  
[greek.umd.edu/housing/policies/](https://greek.umd.edu/housing/policies/)  
[southcampuscommons.com/safetyinformation/](https://southcampuscommons.com/safetyinformation/)  
[umdcourtyards.com/current-residents/safety-information/](https://umdcourtyards.com/current-residents/safety-information/)

#### F. FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF:

The Office of the Fire Marshal provides training to housing staff including Resident Assistants, Community Assistants, and Greek House Directors. The training includes information on fire protection features of facilities, fire prevention, emergency procedures, and conducting fire safety education sessions for residents.

Undergraduate residents are required to attend the first floor meeting where their Resident Assistant or Community Assistant reviews information on fire evacuation procedures and the housing prohibitions listed above. Greek House Managers receive training on fire prevention and emergency procedures. Greek House Directors and House Managers hold mandatory chapter meetings with Greek House residents to review fire safety information.

Residents in graduate apartments receive the pamphlet “Fire Safety and You” when they first move in and every year afterwards. The pamphlet has information on fire prevention, building features, and emergency procedures.

For faculty and staff, the Fire Marshal’s Office provides training in a number of ongoing programs including New Employee Orientation, Crowd Manager Training, Police Academy, Library Floor Marshal Training, and programs specifically requested.

G. PLANS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN FIRE SAFETY:

UMD continually evaluates the fire protection systems in residential facilities. A systematic process of annually planning and budgeting for fire protection system upgrades has been in place for over 30 years. Such upgrades occur through system replacements and building renovations. New construction projects include the most up-to-date fire protection systems.

Current plans include:

- As nine North Hill residence halls are renovated, they will also be equipped with new voice fire alarm systems. The renovation of Dorchester Hall has been completed.
- All new residence halls are equipped with resident room smoke alarms that are monitored by the fire alarm control panel.
- Single station smoke alarms in student bedrooms, suites and apartments are replaced every 10 years.
- Stoves in all apartments with electric stoves are equipped with sensi-temp technology that limits the temperature of the burners to minimize stove-top fires.
- Two new residence halls, Pyon-Chen Hall and Johnson-Whittle Hall, will house 902 first- and second-year students in single and double rooms. Pyon-Chen Hall opened in Fall 2021.

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This report was compiled by the Office of the Fire Marshal in the Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk within the Division of Administration. The Fire Marshal's Office may be reached by phone at (301) 405-3960 or by email [firemarshal@umd.edu](mailto:firemarshal@umd.edu).