

# The 2019 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. 2016-2018 FIRE STATISTICS FOR ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING FACILITIES

DATE	LOCATION	CAUSE	INJURIES*	DEATHS	PROPERTY DAMAGE
1/26/16	Graduate Hills – 7704 Adelphi Road	Unintentional - Dryer fire overheated motor	0	0	\$1000.00
4/11/16	Graduate Gardens – 4331 Rowalt Drive	Unintentional - Unattended water boiling on the stove to sterilize toddler cups	0	0	\$12.50
9/10/16	Queen Anne’s Hall	Unintentional - Electronics malfunction in dryer	0	0	\$1000.00
10/4/16	St. Mary’s Hall	Unintentional - Food in microwave oven	0	0	\$110.00
1/3/17	South Campus Commons 1	Unintentional - Fan motor	0	0	\$200.00
1/4/17	South Campus Commons 3	Unintentional - Ceiling mounted heater malfunction	0	0	\$5000.00
1/26/17	Easton Hall	Intentional - Resident burned resume in bathroom	0	0	\$0
1/29/17	South Campus Commons 5	Undetermined - Trash compactor	0	0	\$7,700.00
3/17/17	Denton Hall	Unintentional - Food burned in microwave	0	0	\$100.00
10/15/17	Cumberland Hall	Intentional - Burned elevator buttons	0	0	\$100.00
11/28/17	Ellicott Hall	Intentional - Burned poster	0	0	\$5.00
11/28/17	Prince George's Hall	Unintentional - Burned oil in a pan on the stove	0	0	\$30.00
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

\*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. The UMD Fire Marshal's Office coordinates and evaluates these drills. Buildings with yearlong occupancy have an additional drill in the summer. A total of 212 drills were conducted during the 2018 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 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 (UMPDS) 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, calling (301) 405-3333 on a mobile phone or #3333 on a mobile phone (Verizon Wireless, Sprint/Nextel, T-Mobile, and AT&T networks). 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/)  
[drf.umd.edu/fire](https://drf.umd.edu/fire)  
[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 and Emergency Management 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.

The online training, [“Prepare Your Shell”](#) is available to all university students, faculty and staff and includes information on how to prevent fires, general evacuation procedures and how to contact campus emergency. The Fire Marshal’s Office is also involved in public education programs like the New Resident Orientation, floor meetings, and Greek house chapter meetings.

For faculty and staff, the Fire Marshal’s Office provides training in a number of ongoing programs including New Employee Orientation, New Researcher Training, 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 or building renovations. Current plans include:

- As the North Hill residence halls are renovated, they will also be equipped with new voice fire alarm systems.
- Single station smoke alarms in student bedrooms, suites and apartments are replaced every 10 years.

This report was compiled by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management in the Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk within the Division of Administration and Finance. The Fire Marshal's Office may be reached by phone at (301) 405-3960, by email [firemarshal@umd.edu](mailto:firemarshal@umd.edu), or in person at 4917 Pontiac Street, Suite 0103, College Park, MD 20742 Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.