

## **Fire prompts 300 to evacuate UIC dorm**

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February 26, 2006, 8:48 PM CST

A fire in a dumpster forced roughly 300 people to evacuate a dormitory at the University of Illinois in Chicago this afternoon, but no injuries were reported, authorities said.

Around 4:50 p.m., smoke spread through a trash chute from the first-floor trash room of the Student Residence and Commons, 600 S. Halsted St., triggering the building's smoke alarms to go off, they said.

The vast majority of the evacuees were students, UIC spokesman Mark Rosati said. The four-story residence hall typically houses about 1,300 students.

Those who were evacuated assembled at the nearby Student Center East, 750 S. Halsted St., and reentered the residence hall around 7 p.m, Rosati said. All evacuees were accounted for.

The fire was put out some time between 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and firefighters this evening were opening up all the windows to rid the building of smoke, Chicago Fire Department spokesman Kevin MacGregor said. Sprinklers in the trash room confined the blaze to the dumpster, he said.

"Fires are not a common occurrence at UIC," Rosati said. "A fire in a lecture hall in 2004 caused a power outage in a number of campus buildings for a few days, but I can't recall a fire ever causing students to evacuate from their dorms."

The cause of the fire is under investigation.  
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