

# CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

Updated September 7, 2007



The following information has been compiled by Campus Firewatch. Please note that much of this information is gathered by monitoring the wire services so the actual number of fatal fires, especially in off-campus occupancies, may be higher. Information regarding the fatal fires is confirmed by Campus Firewatch with local fire department officials prior to inclusion.

## Most fatal year on record

The 2006-2007 academic year was the most fatal one on record, as compiled by Campus Firewatch. There have been 20 campus-related fire deaths in this period with 18 of these occurring in off-campus occupancies (the other two were in fraternities).

## Common Factors

According to information compiled by Campus Firewatch, over 80 percent of the campus-related fire fatalities across the nation since January 2000 have occurred in off-campus housing. Four common factors in a number of these fires include:

- Lack of automatic fire sprinklers
- Missing or disabled smoke alarms
- Careless disposal of smoking materials
- Impaired judgment from alcohol consumption

## Campus-related fire fatalities from January 2000 to present

Occupancy	Deaths	% of total
Off-campus	92	81%
Residence Hall	10	9%
Greek housing	10	9%
Other	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	

According to the U.S. Department of Education, there are approximately 17,000,000 students enrolled in 4,100 colleges and universities across the country. Approximately 2/3 of the students live in off-campus housing.

## Geographic distribution of fire fatalities

Ohio	14
North Carolina	10
West Virginia	9
Indiana	8
Pennsylvania	7
Massachusetts	6
Mississippi	6
Illinois	5
Kansas	5
Virginia	5

California	4
Texas	4
Minnesota	3
Nebraska	3
New Jersey	3
New York	3
Alaska	2
Georgia	2
Kentucky	2
Maryland	2

Missouri	2
DC	1
Iowa	1
Louisiana	1
Michigan	1
Oklahoma	1
Oregon	1
Rhode Island	1
Tennessee	1

## Annual number of fatalities by academic year

2000-2001	17
2001-2002	14
2002-2003	14

2003-2004	11
2004-2005	14
2005-2006	11

2006-2007	20
2007-2008	1 YTD

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## Fatal Fires 2007-2008 academic year

Bradley University	West Peoria, Illinois	1 killed in an off-campus fire
<b>Academic year-to-date total</b>		<b>1</b>

## Fatal fires 2006-2007 academic year

University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Nebraska Wesleyan University	Lincoln, Nebraska	1 killed in a fraternity fire
University of Missouri – St. Louis	St. Louis, Missouri	1 killed in a fraternity fire
University of Nebraska – Lincoln	Lincoln, Nebraska	2 killed in an off-campus fire
Marshall University	Huntington, West Virginia	5 killed in an off-campus fire
University of Mississippi-Meridian	Linwood, Mississippi	3 killed in an off-campus fire
Halifax Community College	Weldon, North Carolina	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Boston University	Boston, Massachusetts	2 killed in an off-campus fire
Longwood University	Farmville, Virginia	2 killed in an off-campus fire
Boston University	Boston, Massachusetts	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Cincinnati State	Cincinnati, OH	1 killed in an off-campus fire
<b>Academic year total</b>		<b>20</b>

NOTE: Two of the victims at the Marshall University fire were not students. However, they were visiting a student's apartment at the time of the fire and are therefore included as campus-related fire deaths. In the University of Nebraska-Lincoln fire, the victim was due to deliver her baby on the day she was killed and the fire department classified this as two victims. Two of the victims in the University of Mississippi fire were the spouse and daughter of the student. The victim in the second Boston University off-campus fire was a visitor to a student's apartment. The victim in Cincinnati was taking the spring semester off but remaining in off-campus student housing.

## Catastrophic, multiple-fatality fires

Since January 2000, approximately 20% of the fires have killed 40% of the victims. In other words, a small percentage of the fires, which are classified by Campus Firewatch as catastrophic, multiple-fatality fires, are killing a large number of the victims. Most of these fires were off-campus.

1/19/00	Seton Hall University	3	5/22/04	Indiana University	3
3/19/00	Bloomsburg University	3	8/27/04	University of Mississippi	3
8/20/00	Berkeley, California	3	4/10/05	Miami University	3
11/2/01	Virginia Commonwealth Univ.	3	6/7/05	Cons. of Recording and Arts	3
2/15/02	Univ. of NC-Greensboro	4	1/13/07	Marshall University	5
4/13/03	Ohio State University	5	2/3/07	MS State Univ.-Meridian	3
9/20/03	Univ. of Minnesota-Twin Cities	3			

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## Campus Fire Safety Month 2007

To date, the following states have issued proclamations designating September as Campus Fire Safety Month:

Alabama	Louisiana	Oregon	Washington
Alaska	Maine	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin
Arizona	Michigan	Rhode Island	Wyoming
Colorado	Mississippi	Tennessee	
Indiana	New York	Texas	
Kentucky	Ohio	Virginia	

In addition, the U.S. Senate has issued a resolution and one is pending in the U.S. House of Representatives. The current list and a map is available online at:

[www.campus-firewatch.com/stateproc-2007.html](http://www.campus-firewatch.com/stateproc-2007.html)

## Current Legislation in Congress

The following bills have been introduced in Congress. More information is available on Campus Firewatch's RESOURCE page at [www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com).

- Campus Fire Safety Month Resolutions (HRes 95 and SRes 105-**Passed**)
- Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act (HR 592 and S 354-**Passed**)
- College Fire Prevention Act (HR 642)
- Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (HR 643 and s 638)
- Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (HR 1742 and S 582)