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Campus Fire Safety e-NewZone Monthly Newsletter ... September 2014, Volume 4, Issue 9

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Campus Fire Forum 2014 - Keynote Speaker

We are pleased to introduce our Keynote Speaker, Jenn Abelson, Investigative Reporter for The Boston Globe's Spotlight Team.

Jenn will discuss Shadow Campus ... a nine-month investigation by The Boston Globe's Spotlight Team, that exposed how a collision of greed, neglect, and mismanagement is endangering young people in America's college capital.

[Learn more about Jenn and other Forum Speakers](#)

CENTER ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER

New "Passport to Fire Safety" Program

Will Help Protect U.S. Students Studying Abroad ... A new program will help ensure the thousands of U.S. college students studying abroad this year to remain safer from fire. "Passport to Fire Safety" launches today at universities throughout the U.S. and will provide students with products such as smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms as part of their travel preparations. "Passport to Fire Safety" was conceived earlier this year by a coalition of fire safety organizations including The Center for Campus Fire Safety®, Kidde Fire Safety and the Jasmine Jahanshahi Fire Safety Foundation, as well as George Washington University. It was officially launched in September during National Campus Fire Safety Month ... [MORE](#)

Campus Fire Safety Month In Connecticut

In honor of Campus Fire Safety Month, The Center for Campus Fire Safety, Egress Marking Systems and Siemens held a full day of training for Connecticut Fire and Life Safety Officials. Sponsored by Egress Marking Systems, this event was offered at no cost to attendees. The event was held Tuesday September 23rd at the University of New Haven. "We were very pleased to see 73 registered ranging from College and University Fire Safety Officials, Building and/or Facility Managers, and Municipal Fire Department Officials", said Brian Kleps, Vice President of Marketing for Egress Marking Systems. [MORE](#) | [PRINT STORY](#)



Fire Safety Presentations by:



SIEMENS

From The **Vice President**

Hope this month's newsletter finds all of you doing well. The students are back and another school year is in full swing. September is campus Fire Safety Month and I'm sure all of you are busy with the beginning of the new school year. According to the calendars, Fall begins on September 23rd. For all of us the fall began much earlier with the return of the students. Hopefully all your "Summer Slammer" construction projects have been completed and accepted ... **MORE**

About The Center for Campus Fire Safety

The Center is the Voice of over 4000 colleges and universities. As a nationwide non-profit, membership based, organization devoted to reducing the loss of life from fire at our nation's campuses, we offer an abundance of free resources to help fire and life safety officials working on college campuses and fire departments with responsibility for a college campus/university.

Leadership|Committees|Sponsors|Advisory Council|Members

Welcome to all of our New Center Members for September

Michael Browning, Edwards; Patrick Mager, Saint Michael's College; PJ Delcontivo, CWSI; Rick Fox, Colorado Mesa University; Chris O'Gwynn, Auburn University; Kitty Lynn, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill; Joseph Reuter, US Government; Barry Caesar, Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Dept; Paul Rouse, GSSI; William Dallaire, Roger Williams University; Michelle Detrick, Berkeley Fire Department; Gregory Wooldridge, Eastern Virginia Medical School; Alex Wiley, Iowa State University; Troy Carey, Iowa State University; Keith Katz, US Army; Pam Wichroski, Bates College; Michael Cerone, Schenectady County Community College; Skip Hougland, Montana State University; George Bennett, Walla Walla University; Vince Collins, University of Washington; John Luba, Sparta Township Fire Prevention; Brent Miller, University of Central Oklahoma; Kathleen Kinch, California State University; Gary Conley, University of Virginia; Lee Noll, University of Oklahoma; Dennis Montgomery, Weber State University; Scott McLaren, Delaware Technical Community College; Ronnie Gilley, Arkansas State University; Darren Blair, Olivet Nazarene University; Angela Davis, Park Place Premier Barber School



The Inspector, by Phil Chandler

Fire Dampers

If I didn't know better, I might think that former Vice President Spiro Agnew was speaking of fire inspectors when he introduced "nattering nabobs of negativism" into common parlance. "Hopeless, hysterical, hypochondriacs," yes, that's what we inspectors have been frequently called. And I'm ok with that! The job of the fire inspector is to see your building on the worst day of the year, the worst time of day, and on fire! ... **MORE**



Off-Campus, by Tim Knisely

Because no one plans to have a fire

Each year fire disrupts the lives of many college students who are living away from home for the first time. Unfortunately, many of these fires are fatal. What makes these fires and deaths more tragic is that many of the fires could be prevented if some basic fire safety practices were known and practiced before the fire. More could be prevented if older buildings were retrofit with modern fire protection equipment, such as ... **MORE**



Training Opps

Webinar: Fire Door and Hardware Code Requirements

Participation in this webinar has been outstanding! ... Our sincere thanks to all of you that have participated, and to our presenter, Lori Green of Allegion. This is one of the largest webinars to date. While we completed half of this 4-part series, there is still time to register for the Oct 1 and Oct 8 session.

Info and Registration



University of New Haven to host Campus Fire Safety/Fire Prevention Week demonstrations.

If you are in the Connecticut area stop by to see the "Burn Box" at the University of New Haven, Kayo Field Lower Parking Lot on October 8th at 12:30.

Presented by the University of New Haven Fire Science Club, and supported by the Connecticut Fire Sprinkler Coalition, this event will address the importance of Residential Sprinklers.

[Learn More about the UNH Fire Science Club and The Center's Student Committee](#)



FREE WEBINAR - Presented by Tyco SimplexGrinnell

Monday, October 20, 2014, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM EDT

NFPA 25: Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-based Fire Protection Systems, has undergone significant changes as a result of the latest code revision cycle.

This webinar, the first in a series that will examine major changes in the 2014 edition of NFPA 25, focuses on the updated requirements in Chapter 14, now called Assessment of Internal Condition of Piping.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Continual Training Opportunities:

Fire Smart Campus Training ... The Center instructor(s) will come to your campus or town. Price varies depending upon location. [Contact us](#) for info.



Chubb Loss Control University ...

Chubb Offers **30% discount** to Members of The Center for Campus Fire Safety or **50%** if you are also a Building and Fire Code official or firefighter. [LEARN MORE](#)

Crowd Manager Training ... 2 hour on line course @ \$19.95. Presented by ICC, NAFSM & CCFS, this course provides valid, credible training to those charged with crowd management at facilities including higher education. This meshes with The Center's mission of providing resources to our community. [MORE](#)



C+S and more

Codes, Standards & More



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OCT 5-11

NFPA promotes working smoke alarms

This year's theme from NFPA is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"

September 24, 2014 – The **National Fire Protection Association** (NFPA), the official sponsor of **Fire Prevention Week** (FPW) for more than 90 years, is gearing up to launch this year's campaign, October 5-11, 2014. The theme is **"Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"**

[[READ FULL PRESS RELEASE](#)



SECTION 911
EXPLOSION CONTROL

911.1 General. Explosion control shall be provided in the following locations:

1. Where a structure, room or space is occupied for purposes involving explosion hazards as identified in Table 911.1.
2. Where quantities of hazardous materials specified in Table 911.1 exceed the maximum allowable quantities in Table 5003.1.1(1) ... [MORE](#)



MEMBER NEWS, MAJOR FIRE LOSS, FIRE INCIDENT NEWS & MASS

NOTIFICATION INFO

FIRE NEWS - FATALITIES

Two Student Deaths in September ...

First Death of Academic year ... Tylor Kostrzewski, 18 years old and student at Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) in Mitchell, South Dakota ... [MORE](#)

The second occurred in Reading Pennsylvania, Matt Rein, 19 years old and student at Albright College ... [MORE](#)

[Fire Fatality Statistics](#)

Breaking News - Click here to Sign up!

The Center for Campus Fire Safety provides initial notification about fire fatalities that occur on a university or college campus, or that occurred within the town where the campus is located. This data is collected from news sources from around the country, and many times - around the world, and then emailed to you.

MORE NEWS STORIES Hundreds of related stories + ability to search through years of our news archives.

MEMBER NEWS AND JOB OPPS

Job Opps:

Fire Prevention Specialist-Hazardous Materials (0358U) #18589
UC Berkeley - Main Campus ... **MORE**

Health & Safety Specialiats, Arizona State University. Full Time, Tempe
Campus ... **MORE**

Fire & Safety Coordinator, Bloomberg University ... **MORE**

Submit Member News or Job Opps

Our Off Campus Fire & Life Safety Alliance is growing ... **MORE**

Seton Hall fire survivor shares stories of struggles ... **MORE**

UNR student injured in fire, Reno Fire Chief says ... **MORE**

MASS NOTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEWS

Fire spreads by campus, quickly put out ... State Police Chief Mark Iwasa said it would take a large-scale fire to require use of the Emergency Notification System (ENS) to notify students on campus ... **MORE**

Siemens' New Multi-Modal Mass Notification System Gets Message Out Quickly - Desigo Mass Notification from Siemens Industry, Inc., Building Technologies Division is a new, fully integrated multi-modal communication system that can be used in a single building or across a large campus for ... **MORE**

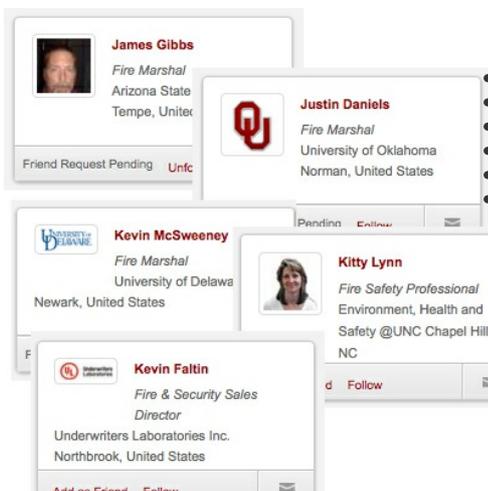
ASU students deserve reliable notification of serious crimes. Most ASU students rely on ASU Alert, which "communicates primarily life-threatening situations to the ... We can speculate that University ... **MORE**

More MNS News and Articles

New - Website Snippet: Each month we'll point you to a special section of our new website and explain it!

MEMBER DIRECTORY: A grrrrreat place to network!

If you are a member - login to the Member Directory ... The Center's new Member Directory is designed to promote networking amongst members. Simply login with your member credentials and go to: Membership > Center-Net Members Only > Member Directory or click <http://campusfiresafety.org/Membership/CenterNet-MembersOnly/MemberCommunityUpdates/MemberDirectory.aspx>.



You will be able to:

- Search for members
- View their basic profile (advanced viewing permissions are set by members)
- Follow a Member
- Friend a Member
- Email a Member
- ... and more

In CenterNet you can also join in Town Hall discussions and review or add community updates for other members to see.

We need your help our member area is only a month old and we need your help to populate the information in the member directory! Please login and let us know what you think!!!



Fire Fatality Statistics

The Center for Campus Fire Safety provides basic information about fire fatalities that occurred on a university or college campus, or that occurred within the town where the campus is located.

Fire Fatality Statistics



Center Resources & Activities (... and more)

- **Library** ... best practices, white papers, technology, codes, ++
- **Data Collection** ... help us collect fire incident data here!
- **Membership** ... become a member or visit our member website!
- **Shopping** ... DVD's, Logo items + more. Members login for discounts!



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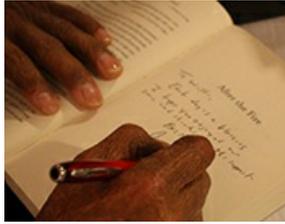
(Shawn & Al)

for their support and dedication to campus fire and life safety.

AFTER THE FIRE ...

Bring the "After The Fire experience" to your campus.

Shawn and Al, Seton Hall burn survivors, are lifetime members of The Center for Campus Fire Safety and have been with us for several years now. Many of you have met them at our annual Forum(s). Learn more about their experience and their willingness to speak at your campus.



MEET SHAWN & AL | PURCHASE AFTER THE FIRE VIDEO

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September 2014

New “Passport to **Fire** Safety” Program Will Help Protect U.S. Students Studying Abroad

September 22, 2014 ... Newburyport, Massachusetts. A new program will help ensure the thousands of U.S. college students studying abroad this year to remain safer from fire. “Passport to Fire Safety” launches today at universities throughout the U.S. and will provide students with products such as smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms as part of their travel preparations.

“Passport to Fire Safety” was conceived earlier this year by a coalition of fire safety organizations including The Center for Campus Fire Safety®, Kidde Fire Safety and the Jasmine Jahanshahi Fire Safety Foundation, as well as The George Washington University, and launched in September during National Campus Fire Safety Month.

In 2011, Jasmine died in a Paris fire that killed three other exchange students and seriously injured dozens more. The residence did not have working smoke alarms. “For many students, the opportunity to study abroad is a highlight of their collegiate experience,” said Tom Hayden, supervisor of health and safety



CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH IN CONNECTICUT

Training Day for College, University and Fire Department Managers and Officials

In honor of Campus Fire Safety Month, The Center for Campus Fire Safety, Egress Marking Systems and Siemens held a full day of training for Connecticut Fire and Life Safety Officials. Sponsored by Egress Marking Systems, this event was offered at no cost to attendees.

The event was held Tuesday September 23rd at the University of New Haven. “We were very pleased to see 73 registered ranging from College and University Fire Safety Officials, Building and/or Facility Managers, and Municipal Fire Department Officials”, said Brian Kleps, Vice President of Marketing for Egress Marking Systems.

Presentations were approved for continuing education by the State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services and included:

- A 3-hour abbreviated version of the well-known Fire Smart Campus (formally FireWise Campus) training program given by Michael J. Swain, Vice President of The Center for Campus Fire Safety and Fire Safety Officer of University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- A 1-hour presentation introducing a highly efficient electroluminescent egress and safety guidance lighting solution for multiple occupancy facilities illuminating corridors, doorways and exits, given by Michael Mitchell, Director of Sales for Egress Marking Systems.
- And a 2-hour presentation given by Fred Santos, National Sales Manager SIEMENS Building Technologies, covering the very important need for emergency communications/mass notification to promote public safety and avoid panic during emergency events. This session provided information on the latest trends, regulations, technologies, and solutions in the emergency communications/mass notification industry.

Fred Santos (SIEMENS) and Brian Kleps of Egress Marking Systems



Michael J. Swain, The Center for Campus Fire Safety



Michael Swain (The Center) and Mike Mitchell of Egress Marking Systems.



About The Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS)

The Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) is a non-profit, member focused organization devoted to reducing the loss of life from fire at our nation's campuses. The mission of The Center for Campus Fire Safety is to serve as an advocate for the promotion of campus fire safety. CCFS serves as the focal point for the efforts of a number of organizations and also as a clearinghouse for information relating to campus fire safety. Visit us at www.campusfiresafety.org for more information.

Media Contacts

The Center for Campus Fire Safety | 978.961.0410

Paul D. Martin, President, pmatrin@campusfiresafety.org

Cathy Tabor, Director of Marketing Communications, ctabor@campusfiresafety.org



inspections, the George Washington University. “While preparation often centers around personal safety and cultural differences, students and families may overlook the risk of fires in countries where smoke alarms and other fire safety devices may not be required to be in homes or up-to-date.”

The program will focus initially on students studying in Europe. Students and universities can visit the coalition’s website: www.passporttofiresafety.org to choose from a variety of battery-powered smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, including models with sealed, 10-year batteries. Once purchased, the alarms and a multilingual installation manual - written in English and the host country’s native language - will be shipped to the address where the student is residing.

“This program is unique in that it will help get the appropriate fire safety products installed into the homes when a student is living there,” said Paul Martin, president of The Center for Campus Fire Safety, a worldwide non-profit organization and the leading authority on campus fire safety risks. “Fire safety standards differ drastically from country to country, and navigating those can be confusing. This program helps simplify that issue while also helping keep our students safe until they return home.”

Learn more at www.passporttofiresafety.org.

To learn more about The Center and its programs, visit www.campusfiresafety.org.



About The Center for Campus Fire Safety (The Center)

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FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

By Michael J. Swain

September 2014

From the VP
September 2014

Hope this month's newsletter finds all of you doing well. The students are back and another school year is in full swing. September is campus Fire Safety Month and I'm sure all of you are busy with the beginning of the new school year

According to the calendars, fall begins on September 23rd. For all of us the fall began much earlier with the return of the students. Hopefully all your "Summer Slammer" construction projects have been completed and accepted. If your campus is as busy as mine the construction is still going on very strong. Hopefully over the summer you were able to get all your testing and maintenance down that was required. Most importantly you get a chance to vacation, relax and recharge your batteries.

As I said, September is Campus Fire Safety Month. What is your campus doing for Campus Fire Safety Month? If you are having events for Campus Safety Month please forward the info to the Center Support Staff you they can post your event in our newsletter and on our website. Don't forget to send us pictures and follow up info after your event is done. This is you Center and we want to share what you are doing with the other members.

Now that fall is here November is approaching quickly. Have you signed up yet for the Annual Campus Fire Safety Forum being held on November 10th through the 13 in Sunny Orlando Florida at the Wyndam Hotel on International Drive. The Forum Committee and CFS Support Staff have been working hard since last November and this year's Forum promises to be another premier event. There is a great

line up of training and exhibits all lined up and waiting for YOU! You can go to our website for more information and to register. Hope to see you soon.

Your Center as I have referred to it several times needs your help. We need members to serve on our different committees. We have committees for Education, Membership, and Codes and Standards just to name a few. Take some time to go to our website and check out our committees and see if there are any committees you might be interested in.

The fall semester is now in full swing. Unfortunately tragic fires have already occurred during the early beginnings of this academic year. Fire safety is a constant battle for us to provide a safe environment for students, faculty, and staff. The Center is here to help or assist in



THE INSPECTOR

By Phil Chandler

September 2014

If I didn't know better, I might think that former Vice President Spiro Agnew was speaking of fire inspectors when he introduced "nattering nabobs of negativism" into common parlance. "Hopeless, hysterical, hypochondriacs," yes, that's what we inspectors have been frequently called. And I'm ok with that! The job of the fire inspector is to see your building on the worst day of the year, the worst time of day, and on fire!

Year in and year out, I visit campus buildings, with little observable change, and with rarely a reported fire incident to pierce the undisturbed tranquility of business as usual. So why then, building managers ask, does the Inspector always find deficiencies at every visit? Maybe it's because I care.

When not out there in active inspection mode, I scan every news and information source I can for fires. Not because of some perverse fetish, but rather to gain knowledge and insight into what train of events resulted in a devastating fire, and what train of events might have inhibited quick and successful suppression. If a six story sprinklered noncombustible building in Oregon can be all but destroyed because the sprinkler system, untested for years, failed to deliver water, I reason that the same could happen to a six

story building on a campus in New York. If an overloaded power strip can cause such a fire, resulting in millions of dollars in damage, then it can do so anywhere. I bring a huge archive of "it can never happen here" and "this is a fireproof building" with me on every inspection. A recent two alarm fire, sending billowing smoke throughout midtown Manhattan, has raised my eyebrows.

Martin Jacobs

Reports indicate that the fire in a six story building was transferred throughout the building by a maze of ductwork. Who would of thunk?

We have frequently chatted about the importance of building compartmentation, passive in nature, but fundamentally





OFF-CAMPUS

By Tim Knisely

September 2014

Off-Campus Housing: Because No One Plans to Have a Fire!

Each year fire disrupts the lives of many college students who are living away from home for the first time. Unfortunately, many of these fires are fatal. What makes these fires and deaths more tragic is that many of the fires could be prevented if some basic fire safety practices were known and practiced before the fire. More could be prevented if older buildings were retrofit with modern fire protection equipment, such as interconnected smoke alarms, fire alarms and sprinkler systems.

These fires are not limited to off-campus housing. Some of these fires do occur in residence halls, but a large majority occur in the off-

campus house, apartment or fraternity house.

Many factors affect a structure during a fire, including the



construction type and the age of the building. For the purpose of this article we'll consider the importance of occupant behavior – before and during the fire, tactical considerations for the fire department and methods to improve the safety of the occupants in these buildings.

Occupant Behavior – Before and During the Fire:

Most off-campus fires occur in the early morning hours and

many are following a party. The common causes of these fires include carelessly discarded smoking materials, unattended cooking, or candles.

Most of these fires occur because someone was careless, or they made a mistake. How many of these fires get out of



OFF-CAMPUS

By Tim Knisely

September 2014

control because someone didn't know how to extinguish a grease fire? This is because most students lack the basic awareness of fire safety. In fact, most students last received fire safety training in grade school. When you add the impact of alcohol the risk becomes greater. When the alarms do not sound and the house lacks sprinklers, the chance of survival is significantly reduced.

Many times when an off-campus house fire occurs, the question often asked is "when was the building last inspected by the town or fire department?" One may think that a recently inspected building may be safer than one inspected more than a year ago. However, it seems that there is not much of a correlation between the fire occurring and the last inspection because

most fires are started by accident – and this could happen at any time. One of the most basic hazards that can be identified at the time of an inspection is the presence of a functional smoke alarm. But, this too can be easily disabled the same day as the inspection by the occupant that burns their dinner. If the landlord or property manager does not have a system in place to test smoke alarms regularly this condition could last until the next inspection.

Tactical Considerations for the Fire Department:

The fire department must be prepared to handle fire incidents in off-campus housing. While an off-campus house may look like others on the block from the outside, the

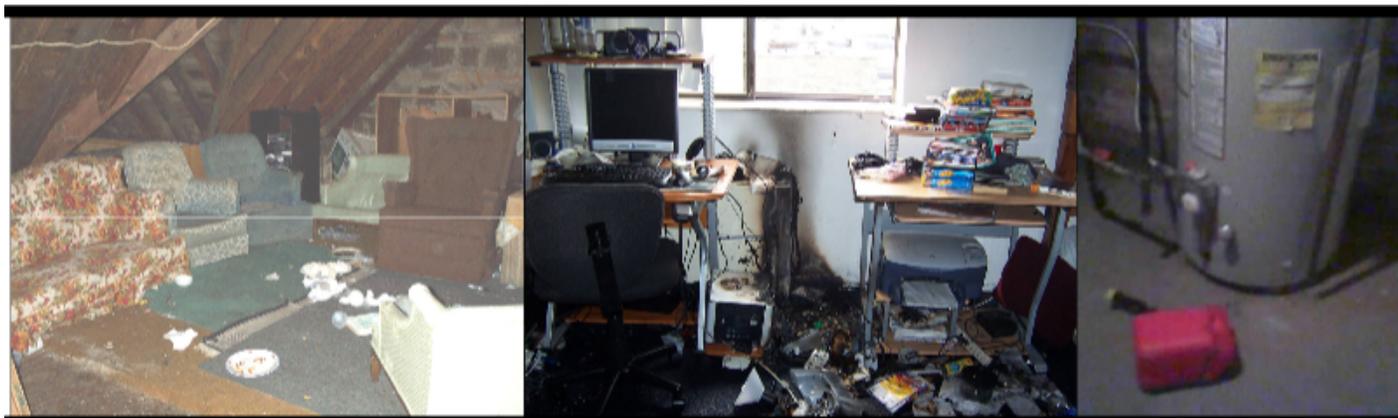
inside may be significantly different. Not only will the number of occupants likely be higher, but tenants will have sleeping rooms or recreation rooms in unusual spaces. Unfinished attics, basements, garages and furnace rooms are just a number of the areas that tenants may go for privacy. Rooms may be subdivided or new rooms constructed in the basements and attics that lack proper egress, electrical supply or fire protection. Temporary wiring and temporary heat are often located in these areas making these spaces more dangerous. Loft beds are also common and allow additional furnishings in a bedroom with a bed located near the ceiling. During a search of the room, the firefighter needs to be aware of this potential condition



OFF-CAMPUS

By Tim Knisely

September 2014



and try to sweep the bed that is not easily found.

There are many areas of concern for the fire department inspection staff while inspecting off-campus housing. One of the most important is ensuring that all fire protection systems are inspected on a regular basis by qualified persons and in a functioning condition at all times.

Another concern during the inspection is the amount of furnishings in a bedroom. The typical student bedroom may also contain one or all of the following: computer,

television, DVD player, refrigerator, coffee pot, microwave, toaster oven, video game system, space heater or air conditioner, hair dryer, cell phone chargers, and heat lamps for the iguana/snake or botany project.

These not only take up space and generate heat, but utilize a significant amount of electricity – frequently supplied by one or two lightweight extension cords.

In fraternity houses, the sleeping rooms will be much like the one de-

scribed above. But the risks here are much greater. Some fraternity houses are converted houses that may house up to 15 tenants. Many others are larger structures ranging in size from 10,000 to 25,000 square feet or larger and may house more than 75 tenants. These houses are frequently utilized in a manner similar to a night club, but lack the requirements for egress, fire detection or sprinklers.

Fraternities also host theme parties that bring in large amounts of combustible materials such as straw,



OFF-CAMPUS

By Tim Knisely

September 2014

shredded paper or pine boughs.

During a fire these decorations could make escape impossible and place a hundred or more people at risk. There may also be sand or mulch on the floor to further slow the egress effort. Parties may also be held outside with many elaborate decorations and the yard may be enclosed by a temporary fence. Or, the yard may be filled with cars, motor homes or a float depending on the weekend. Apparatus access and building access by the firefighters will be limited during these events.

A fire in an off-campus house or fraternity house will be very labor intensive and will require additional resources almost immediately. If you factor in the potential

risks created by the occupants and the potential of high occupant loads during parties these fires become even more dangerous for the firefighter.

Retrofitting Fire Protection Systems:

Building codes regulate the fire protection system features in new construction and include modern smoke alarms, fire alarm systems and sprinkler systems.

Existing buildings lack many of the systems available – because the building was previously approved and it is not required to be improved. Many jurisdictions will require improvements to these buildings after a fire tragedy occurs. Some however have made changes to codes in existing buildings before the fire – before someone has to die.

New technologies allow the installation of fire protection systems easier and cheaper than ever. Work with the manufacturers and the trade associations to provide the technical information you need. If an ordinance is proposed that will require installation of fire protection systems, provide a reasonable time for compliance. Also recognize that it will be unlikely that you will retrofit every building with sprinklers. The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) can recommend an appropriate level of protection and the appropriate compliance time for the building, depending on the risk. Involve the property owners in the planning stages of the retrofit laws. You might not get them all to agree, but they'll be informed and may be your ally.



OFF-CAMPUS

By Tim Knisely

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The Teachable Moment:

When a fire occurs, use the lessons learned as an opportunity for education and outreach to the community. Some fire departments conduct a neighborhood canvass immediately after a fire to educate the neighbors about what just happened. Offer to test their smoke alarms, provide fresh batteries and if necessary install a new smoke alarm right away. You don't know when the next fire might occur.

Many media outlets are anxious to help spread your safety message. Use your safety partners, such as the fire department, student affairs staff or student groups that have a focus for off-campus housing issues.

Work with property owners and property managers to develop

fire escape plans for their buildings. These can be included in the student move-in packets at the beginning of each lease. These plans could include information about the fire protection equipment available in their house or apartment, instructions on reporting a fire and contact numbers to report maintenance requests.

Summary:

To reduce the risk to the occupant and the firefighter, these buildings must be retrofit with modern fire protection systems regardless of when the building was built. Smoke alarms and

sprinklers together provide the best protection in the event of a fire. Educational programs need to be developed that address this specific group of students. Reaching the students before they leave the residence halls might be the best method, but there is high competition for their time. Remember, no one plans to have a fire. There needs to be a plan in place before the fire occurs.

Tim Knisely

Tim Knisely is on the Board of Directors for The Center and the Senior Fire Inspector for the Centre Region Code Administration in State





OFF-CAMPUS

By Tim Knisely

September 2014

College, PA. In this position he manages the Existing Structures Division that administers the fire and property maintenance code in all existing commercial and residential rental properties, and coordinates the life safety education for the community including off-campus and Greek housing.

Tim has been active with The Center for Campus Fire Safety since its inception and served as treasurer from 2007 to 2010.

He is a frequent presenter at Campus Fire Forum, an instructor for the Fire-Wise Campus program and served as project manager for Campus Fire Data.



Published by The Center for Campus Fire Safety.

www.campusfiresafety.org
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THE INSPECTOR

By Phil Chandler

September 2014

the most important of all fire protection technologies. We have spent a lot of ink underscoring the need to firestop all penetrations. Likewise, we will never exhaust the topic of fire doors and their crucial role in saving lives and property. Yet we have rarely touched on the other opening protective: fire dampers.

The hot air generated by a fire in a compartment expands, exerting positive pressure on all horizontal and vertical planes. Given this dynamic, a fire in a confined space, be it a room or an entire floor, will push through every opening possible. We know all too well that a stairwell will vertically convey fire and smoke to upper

floors throughout the building. All we need is a chocked open fire door or one not closing and latching properly to allow entry of smoke and fire into this chimney-like enclosure, often with deadly consequences.

This same expansive force will drive fire and super- heated gasses through every grill,



grate and vent in the fire room, entering the ducts and shafts that provide occupants with the conditioned air that makes our buildings habitable year round. In a properly designed building, these hidden

highways are equipped with fire dampers that will prevent the unfettered passage of fire from one compartment to another. In its most basic form, a fire damper features a series of spring-loaded louvers that are held open by a fusible link. When exposed to the heat of a fire, the link will fail, allowing the louvers to close, preventing the spread of fire.

This simple and effective device, like the fire door, offers cheap protection for all buildings. But, there is a huge caveat, fire dampers must be installed properly, and equally important, (this is the kicker) maintained properly. The International Fire Code is unambiguous on this point:



THE INSPECTOR

By Phil Chandler

September 2014

*703.1.3 Required fire walls, fire barriers and fire partitions shall be maintained to prevent the passage of fire. All openings protected with approved doors or **fire dampers** shall be maintained in accordance with NFPA 80. And that means inspection and testing as a logical prelude to maintenance.*

Yes, you read it correctly! For those jurisdictions adopting the ICC Fire Code, 2009 edition and later, fire dampers must be inspected one year after installation and every four years thereafter—that means getting out a ladder, finding the smoke dampers, opening their access doors and thoroughly inspecting them to determine full functionality. This is serious stuff!

Moreover, the inspection shall be documented:

NFPA 80 19.4.9 All inspections shall be documented indicating the location of the fire damper, or combination fire/smoke damper, date of inspection, name of inspector, and deficiencies discovered.

Such deficiencies may include:

19.4.3 Obstructed access to the damper.

19.4.4 Failure of the damper to fully close upon removal of the link.

19.4.5 Damper interference due to rusted, bent, misaligned, or damaged frame or blades, or defective hinges or other moving parts.

19.4.6 Penetration of the damper by foreign objects [those cable guys again!] that would

affect damper operations.

Needless to say: *IF the damper is not operable, repairs shall begin without delay (19.5.3).* And of course, *All maintenance shall be documented...(19.5.5).*

Yes, I can hear the complaint of campus facility managers from coast to coast: “does it ever end—what next? Where will the funds and where will the trained personnel come from to implement another aggressive ITM program? Of course it’s easy for me to say, but nonetheless I do offer the wisdom of my grandmother and I expect, of everyone’s grandmother as well: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”



THE INSPECTOR

By Phil Chandler

September 2014

Philip Chandler is a long time firefighter and a fulltime government fire marshal working extensively in the college environment - from large public university centers to small private colleges.

His primary responsibilities include code enforcement and education. Phil welcomes your comments, thoughts and opinions (whether in agreement or opposition) to his viewpoints. He may be reached at:

<mailto:theinspector@campusfiresafety.org>

Ask the Inspector

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Note: The viewpoints expressed in The Inspector are those of the author alone. They are offered to initiate thought and debate, however, they do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of The Center for



FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

By Michael J. Swain

September 2014

any way we can. Reach out to the Center or its members at any time if you have questions or ideas that can help all of us do our jobs. The Center is your Center and is here for you.

I look forward to seeing you in Orlando and hope to hear from many of you soon with questions or comments. Take care of yourselves and have a great Fall Semester.

Michael J. Swain, Vice-President

Michael Swain is the Campus Fire Prevention Officer with Environmental Health and Safety at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Michael has worked in campus fire safety at the University for 27 years. Michael also serves as Vice President for The Center for Campus Fire Safety, a nonprofit advocacy group for Campus Fire Safety. Michael has been a member of the

Greenfield, Massachusetts Fire Department for 29 years and currently holds the rank of District Chief. Michael is a Past President of the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts and is currently serving as secretary of the association. He was the 2008 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year for Massachusetts.



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Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11, promotes working smoke alarms

This year's theme from NFPA is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"

September 24, 2014 – The [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA), the official sponsor of [Fire Prevention Week](#) (FPW) for more than 90 years, is gearing up to launch this year's campaign, October 5-11, 2014. The theme is "[Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!](#)"

"Smoke alarms can help make the difference between life and death in a fire, but they need to be working," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of outreach and advocacy. "This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign reinforces the importance of testing smoke alarms each month, and works to ensure that people have the needed protection in the event of a home fire."

Working [smoke alarms](#) cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half. While research shows that most U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"The common presence of smoke alarms in the home tends to create a false sense of security," said Carli. "Simply having smoke alarms isn't enough. They need to be tested and maintained properly."

In addition to monthly testing, smoke alarms should be installed and maintained as follows:

- There should be at least one smoke alarm on every level of the home (including the basement), outside all sleeping areas and in every bedroom.
- For smoke alarms that include a 10-year non-replaceable battery, replace the entire smoke alarm if it begins to "chirp", indicating that the battery is running low. For smoke alarms that use regular batteries, replacing the batteries once a year is recommended, or before then if the battery begins to chirp.
- All smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years or sooner if they don't respond properly when tested.
- For the best protection, smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that when one alarm sounds, they all do.

NFPA's Fire Prevention Week website (www.fpw.org) offers a wealth of smoke alarm information and resources for parents and teachers, and for fire departments working to implement the campaign in their communities. In addition, NFPA's [Sparky the Fire Dog](#)® website (www.sparky.org/fpw) features award-winning apps and games for kids that reinforce the campaign's fire safety messages.

NFPA and all its 2014 FPW partners – [LEGOLAND](#)® Parks, [Domino's](#)® Pizza, [CVS Pharmacy](#) and [The Home Depot](#) – are working together to promote the importance of monthly testing and related smoke alarm information through a wide range of engaging, family-focused events and initiatives during and leading up to the campaign.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and upcoming events, visit www.fpw.org.

About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on

the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. NFPA develops more than 300 codes and standards to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other hazards. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed at no cost at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

About Fire Prevention Week

NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since 1922. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925. Visit www.firepreventionweek.org for more safety information.



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SECTION 911 EXPLOSION CONTROL

911.1 General.

Explosion control shall be provided in the following locations:

1. Where a structure, room or space is occupied for purposes involving explosion hazards as identified in Table 911.1.
2. Where quantities of hazardous materials specified in Table 911.1 exceed the maximum allowable quantities in Table 5003.1.1(1).

Such areas shall be provided with explosion (deflagration) venting, explosion (deflagration) prevention systems, or barricades in accordance with this section and NFPA 69, or NFPA 495 as applicable.

Deflagration venting shall not be utilized as a means to protect buildings from detonation hazards.

- ◆ It is usually impractical to design a building to withstand the pressure created by an explosion. Therefore, this section requires an explosion relief system for structures, rooms or

spaces with occupancies involving explosion hazards. Explosions may result.

911.2 Required deflagration venting. Areas that are required to be provided with deflagration venting shall comply with the following:

1. Walls, ceilings and roofs exposing

TABLE 911.1
EXPLOSION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

MATERIAL	CLASS	EXPLOSION CONTROL METHODS	
		Barricade construction	Explosion (deflagration) venting or explosion (deflagration) prevention systems
Hazard Category			
Combustible dusts ^a	—	Not required	Required
Cryogenic fluids	Flammable	Not required	Required
Explosives	Division 1.1	Required	Not required
	Division 1.2	Required	Not required
	Division 1.3	Not required	Required
	Division 1.4	Not required	Required
	Division 1.5	Required	Not required
	Division 1.6	Required	Not required
Flammable gas	Gaseous	Not required	Required
	Liquefied	Not required	Required
Flammable liquids	IA ^b	Not required	Required
	IB ^c	Not required	Required
Organic peroxides	Unclassified	Required	Not permitted
	detonable I	Required	Not permitted
Oxidizer liquids and solids	4	Required	Not permitted
Pyrophoric	Cases	Not required	Required
	4	Required	Not permitted
Unstable (reactive)	3 detonable	Required	Not permitted
	3 nondetonable	Not required	Required
	3	Not required	Required
Water-reactive liquids and solids	2 ^e	Not required	Required
	2 ^e	Not required	Required
Special Uses			
Acetylene generator rooms	—	Not required	Required
Grain processing	—	Not required	Required
Liquefied petroleum gas distribution facilities	—	Not required	Required
Where explosion hazards exist ^d	Detonation	Required	Not permitted
	Deflagration	Not required	Required

a. Combustible dusts that are generated during manufacturing or processing. See definition of Combustible Dust in Chapter 22.

b. Storage or use.

c. In open use or dispensing.

d. Rooms containing dispensing and use of hazardous materials when an explosive environment can occur because of the characteristics or nature of the hazardous materials or as a result of the dispensing or use process.

e. A method of explosion control shall be provided when Class 2 water-reactive materials can form potentially explosive mixtures.



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surrounding areas shall be designed to resist a minimum internal pressure of 100 pounds per square foot (psf) (4788 Pa). The minimum internal design pressure shall not be less than five times the maximum internal relief pressure specified in Section 911.2, Item 5.

2. Deflagration venting shall be provided only in exterior walls and roofs.

Exception: Where sufficient exterior wall and roof venting cannot be provided because of inadequate exterior wall or roof area, deflagration venting shall be allowed by specially designed shafts vented to the exterior of the building.

3. Deflagration venting

shall be designed to prevent unacceptable structural damage. Where relieving a deflagration, vent closures shall not produce projectiles of sufficient velocity and mass to cause life threatening injuries to the occupants or other persons on the property or adjacent public ways.

4. The aggregate clear area of vents and venting devices shall be governed by the pressure resistance of the construction assemblies specified in Item 1 of this section and the maximum internal pressure allowed by Item 5 of this section.

5. Vents shall be designed to withstand loads in accordance

with the International Building Code. Vents shall consist of any one or any combination of the following to relieve at a maximum internal pressure of 20 pounds per square foot (958 Pa), but not less than the loads required by the International Building Code:

5.1. Exterior walls designed to release outward.

5.2. Hatch covers.

5.3. Outward swinging doors.

5.4. Roofs designed to uplift.

5.5. Venting devices listed for the purpose.

6. Vents designed to release from the exterior walls or roofs of the building when venting a deflagration



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shall discharge directly to the exterior of the building where an unoccupied space not less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) in width is provided between the exterior walls of the building and the lot line.

Exception: Vents complying with Item 7 of this section.

7. Vents designed to remain attached to the building when venting a deflagration shall be so located that the discharge opening shall not be less than 10 feet (3048 mm) vertically from window openings and exits in the building and 20 feet (6096 mm) horizontally from exits in the building, from window openings and exits in adjacent buildings on the same

lot, and from the lot line.

8. Discharge from vents shall not be into the interior of the building.

◆ This section prescribes the basic design criteria necessary for deflagration venting.

Deflagration venting limits the deflagration pressure in a certain area so that, in case of an explosion, the damage to that enclosed area is minimized or eliminated. Because there are so many variables involved for adequate deflagration venting, the parameters for each design should fit the individual situation. NFPA 68 contains additional guidance on the design and use of deflagration

venting systems.

The area of the vent must be adequate to relieve the pressure before it reaches a level in excess of what can be withstood by the weakest building member.

The vent area, therefore, is dependent on the actual construction of the enclosed area and the anticipated pressure. The vent panel should be of light-weight construction so that it can easily release at low pressures. Because the lightweight panels have little structural strength, railings may be required along the floor edge to prevent people or objects from falling against the panel.



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Item 5 indicates that the vents are to be designed to relieve at a maximum internal pressure of 20 pounds per square foot (psf) (958 Pa) but not less than the load design requirements in Chapter 16 of the IBC. In areas commonly subject to high winds, the release pressure has to be increased accordingly to prevent the vents from being actuated by wind forces. Even though the release pressure should be as low as practical, it must always be higher than the external wind pressure.

Venting devices must be located to discharge directly to the open air or to an unoccupied space at least 50 feet (15 240 mm) in width on the same lot. To

minimize damage and maintain the integrity of the existing system, window openings and egress facilities are not to be within 10 feet (3048 mm) vertically or 20 feet (6096 mm) horizontally of the vent. The spatial distance will permit the pressure to decrease and not to cause additional damage.

911.3 Explosion prevention systems. Explosion prevention systems shall be of an approved type and installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 69.

◆ Depending on the conditions of the anticipated explosion hazard, the use of an explosion prevention system may be an

effective means of explosion control.

An explosion prevention system is most effective in confined spaces or enclosures in which combustible gases, mists or dusts are subject to deflagration in a gas-phase oxidant. Explosion prevention systems are intended to prevent an explosion hazard by combating the process of combustion at its incipient stage.

NFPA 69 contains further information on the installation, operation and design considerations for explosion prevention systems. Explosion prevention systems are commonly used to protect laboratory equipment, such as reactor vessels, mills



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and dust collectors.

911.4 Barricades.
Barricades shall be
designed and installed
in accordance with
NFPA 495.

◆As indicated in Table
911.1, depending on the
type of materials
involved, barricade
construction may be an
acceptable method of

explosion control.

Barricade construction
is an effective method
of screening a building
containing explosives
from other buildings,
magazines or public
rights-of-way. The
barricade could be
either natural or
artificial, where
applicable, as specified
in NFPA 495.

Next Month Section 912
Fire Department
Connections (page 439)



The International Code Council, a membership association dedicated to building safety and fire prevention, develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states that adopt codes choose the International Codes developed by the International Code Council.



The Center for Campus Fire Safety 978.961.0410 SupportTeam@campusfiresafety.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Albright College Sophomore Dies in Early Morning Fire

Newburyport, Massachusetts - September 15, 2014. ... The Albright College campus community, in Reading, Pennsylvania, is mourning the loss of a student, who died in an off campus house fire, early Saturday morning, September 13, 2014. The fire claimed the life of Matt Rein, a 19 year old sophomore environmental science major and record holding swim team member from South River, New Jersey. Two other students, unnamed at this time, were injured during this fire. The fire, which occurred in the basement of the home, caused smoke to fill the structure and, although the building had working smoke alarms according to fire officials, forced four students to jump from a second floor balcony.

Three additional students were found in the home by fire crews; one on the first floor, while another student was found in a second floor bedroom; Rein was found at the top of the basement stairs. All injured parties were transported to Reading Hospital by emergency medical services. One of these students was subsequently transported to Lehigh Valley Hospital, near Allentown, PA, after being stabilized at Reading. Of the three students found inside of the home, it is expected that the two unnamed male students will survive.

The fire occurred around 5:00 AM at 1321 North 13th Street. The damage is currently estimated to be \$20,000.00. It appears as if the fire was suppressed, in part, by a water pipe that ruptured, containing the fire to the basement of the structure. While the fire is still under investigation, it is believed to be attributed to accidental causes. Reading Police and Fire Departments, as well as the Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal's office, are still investigating this fire. Ironically, the College Heights Community Council had scheduled a meeting with campus administrators to address off campus student housing in the area south of campus. This meeting was scheduled for Sunday night, September 14th.



While there is a limit of three students living in an apartment at one time, there were seven occupants in the home at the time of the fire. These ordinances are often circumvented by students, who bring others into an apartment to decrease the cost of living, without notifying the landlord. Rein was visiting members of the swim team at the time of the fire and was not living in the home in a full time capacity. Counseling services and the school chaplain are available to the Albright College campus community.

CCFS reflects on this tragedy and also wants to remind everyone of the **importance of properly installing and maintaining smoke detectors and other fire prevention equipment**, in accordance with prescribed codes and standards. But let's look beyond requirements and ask ourselves what else we can do to avoid potential loss of life from fire.

- Keep a **portable fire extinguisher** on every floor - and be sure it is fully charged. A fire extinguisher is useful for fires smaller than a wastebasket. **Before using a fire extinguisher call 9-1-1 and sound the fire alarm.** If a small incipient fire cannot be controlled, or if it becomes larger than a wastebasket, exit the building immediately.
- Plan your **escape routes** - Identify windows, and doors, know two ways out and determine an escape route **before the fire.**
- Keep an **emergency escape ladder** on upper floors - plan a safe escape route for windows.
- Keep **escape routes clear** - do not allow objects to be stored in halls or stairwells.
- **Inspect the exterior door** at bottom of stairwell. It must be able to be opened without a key from the inside. **Door cannot be blocked** by snow, cars or other objects.
- **Choose a meeting place in advance** - Pick a highly visible area, a safe distance away from the flames, to meet in case of fire related emergency.
- **Be prepared** - Practice your emergency exit routes with each occupant. Practice crawling low to avoid toxic smoke from a fire. Practice feeling doors for heat before opening doors. Practice opening windows and using an emergency escape ladder.



“The Center for Campus Fire Safety also wants to point out the necessity of fire sprinkler systems”, said Paul D. Martin, President of The Center for Campus Fire Safety. “To have residence halls without fire sprinklers today should be unacceptable to parents” said Martin. Fire Sprinklers protect people and structures. Most people don't realize that 8 out of 10 fire deaths occur at night when everyone is asleep. Fires are also fast; they can go from a tiny flame to total destruction in as little as three minutes. Fire sprinklers can suppress and often extinguish a fire before the fire department arrives, providing additional time to escape.

88 fatal fires have been documented that occurred on a college campus, in Greek housing or in off-campus housing within 3-miles of the campus - claiming a total of 125 victims.

- 75 fires have occurred in off-campus housing claiming 106 victims
- 7 fires have occurred in on-campus building or residence halls claiming 9 victims
- 6 fires have occurred in Greek housing claiming 10 victims

CCFS has been documenting specific campus related fires deaths since Year 2000. Current and more detailed statistics, along with the definition of how we define “campus related fires” are always posted on the website, along with a host of fire safety resources and tips for fire safety professionals as well as students in both universities and off-campus housing. One of the resources includes a daily and ongoing listing of other fire incidents in the higher education arena.

To learn more about CCFS and its programs, visit www.campusfiresafety.org.

For additional information:

Fire Fatality Statistics and Definition:

<http://www.campusfiresafety.org/firefatalitystatistics>

Continual e-news -campus fire & safety:

<http://www.campusfiresafety.org/News>

Campus Fire Safety Resources: <http://www.campusfiresafety.org/resources>



About The Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS)

The Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) is a non-profit, member focused organization devoted to reducing the loss of life from fire at our nation's campuses. The mission of The Center for Campus Fire Safety is to serve as an advocate for the promotion of campus fire safety. CCFS serves as the focal point for the efforts of a number of organizations and also as a clearinghouse for information relating to campus fire safety. Visit us at www.campusfiresafety.org for more information.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) in Mitchell, South Dakota died in an off-campus apartment fire

Newburyport, Massachusetts Update to September 4th Fire Fatality.

Tylor Kostrzewski, 18 a student at Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) in Mitchell, South Dakota died in an off-campus apartment fire in the early morning hours (alarm was at 0500) of Thursday, 4th September 2014. The cause of the fire was an unattended burning candle. Functioning smoke alarms were present in each of the apartments along with a hard-wired alarm in the common area on the first floor. There were several smokers living in the residence - neither alcohol nor drugs was a factor.

The dwelling, located at 515 W. Third Avenue in Mitchell was a three-story house converted into four separate apartments located three miles from the MTI campus.

Kostrzewski and his roommate Kelby Lutter who escaped with minor burns were both from Kimball, South Dakota located about 50-miles east of Mitchell. Kostrzewski recently graduated from Kimball High School in 2014 and was studying Information Systems Technology at MTI.

This is the first campus fire fatality for the fledgling 2014 - 2015 academic year. During the last four years there were 22 campus fire deaths using the Center for Campus Fire Safety's criteria. They were comprised of 2013 - 2014 (3 Fatalities); 2012 - 2013 (6 Fatalities); 2011 - 2012 (9 Fatalities) and 2010 - 2011 (4 Fatalities).



The information in this news release was compiled, confirmed and verified from news reports and interviews with South Dakota Office of the State Fire Marshal by Tim O'Dowd - U.S Fire Administration.

Link to obituary and photo of Tylor Kostrzewski

<http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/content/tylor-m-kostrzewski-0>

The Center has been documenting specific campus related fires deaths since Year 2000. Current and more detailed statistics, along with the definition of how we define “campus related fires” are always posted on the website, along with a host of fire safety resources and tips for fire safety professionals as well as students in both universities and off-campus housing. One of the resources includes a daily and ongoing listing of other fire incidents in the higher education arena. To learn more about CCFS and its programs, visit www.campusfiresafety.org.

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