



OFF-CAMPUS

By Tim Knisely

November 2015

Forum Wrap-up:

Another Campus Fire Forum has gone by, and another great time to catch up with current and new friends and colleagues. This year's Forum offered a great mix of presentations and vendors for anyone interested in the fire safety arena. The Off-Campus Fire & Life Safety Alliance was pleased to be joined by Timothy O'Dowd of the United States Fire Administration. Mr. O'Dowd presented a summary of the new report 'Campus Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings (2000-2015).' While this report covers fatalities that occurred in all campus residential buildings, it reminds us that 94% of these deaths occurred in off-campus housing. This should give everyone incentive to try even harder than we already do.

As we head into the winter months we know the problems and risks that we will be faced with as the temperatures drop, but these aren't much different than other housing types in our communities. What is different is the party scene. Off campus parties are a main stay for many in college. I'm constantly reminded of the party risks in my community. Some landlords pay attention, others do not. The houses are overcrowded with many intoxicated attendees, often times in the basements - sometimes the attics. Some will stay the night, while others walk or drive home. All of these decisions come with a risk. Hopefully, everything will turn out ok. Unfortunately, this isn't always the case. How can we improve these chances?

I urge everyone to get involved in The Center as a member, attend next year's Forum, volunteer for committees and add your ideas to the Off-Campus Fire & Life Safety Alliance. Take back some ideas like 'Every Bear Goes Home' has done in Berkeley. The members of Berkeley Fire see the impact from poor decisions, beyond fire safety. Fire, EMS and police departments in every college town see the same issues. How can we make sure Everyone Graduates?

It won't be long and the Forum Committee will be issuing a 'Call for Papers' for next year's Forum. If you have a unique hazard, experience or success in your community - or have a



OFF-CAMPUS

By Tim Knisely

November 2015

program that you'd be willing to share, please consider submitting your paper. Let's keep the Off-Campus (Greek, too) topic alive and strong at the next, and many more Forums.

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

978.961.0410 | [email](mailto:)