



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Newburyport, Massachusetts .... Update to September 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.campusfiresafety.org) for more information.

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