For the past three years, funding from the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has permitted the Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) to develop, deliver and evaluate the effectiveness of specialized training for the professionals who directly teach fire safety to the more than 16 million college and university students throughout the United States.

This training, known better as the Firewise Campus Project, is a two day course, delivered by instructional staff of the CCFS and provides campus fire safety professionals with best practices, roadmaps to reach various audiences and an entire “toolbox” of resources to help them create successful campus fire safety programs for their institutions.

A critical component of the DHS grant required CCFS to report on the use of the course materials by the workshop participants. Underwriters Laboratories University, who also served as a partner to CCFS in the development of the course materials, has also been instrumental in documenting the post course use of the various materials by the hundreds of attendees and providing continual feedback and findings to CCFS as well.

Measurement Methodology:
Measuring the impact of any training program involves obtaining feedback from a number of perspectives: the participant’s reaction at the end of the course, tests to determine if the knowledge and skills

>> Continued on page 3
The holidays are a time to celebrate all that we should be thankful for and not take for granted. I want to encourage the entire CCFS family to consider the successes and opportunities we have enjoyed this past year, despite all of the challenges, and to be grateful for them and each other.

I am very excited to start my journey at the helm of the CCFS organization. I have had a great time ever since I came aboard what now seems so long ago, but now I am looking forward to a very productive future as your new president. To that end, I see one of my major roles as that of a strategist - designing and planning action and policy to achieve our overall organizational goals. I will work hard to keep us on track and looking forward as we unveil many new programs and events in the next few years.

This said, I also pledge to remain open and accessible, to listen to our members, partners, and supporters in order to learn what their needs may be. This will help further advance our organization and its upcoming programs. Please know that I am hoping that each of you will send us your ideas, thoughts, and critiques (constructive please) for the organization. Together we will stay positive, share insights, knowledge, and help one another learn more about our common mission - keeping the campus environment free from fire.

An organization such as ours, lends support to anyone who seeks it - however for those members who actively participate are those who gain gains even greater dividends. So please become active and join us as we venture into the future.

As this Holiday Season approaches, there is always so much activity and personal business to attend to that it is easy to forget to take the time to thank everyone who makes our organization so extraordinary. Not wanting to fall victim that trap please indulge me the opportunity to express here how much I appreciate everyone on the CCFS team - for without them we would be nothing. Thank you Team!

And before I close, thanks to all our readers as well - may this holiday season bring to you and your family all of the joy and happiness that you deserve.

Happy Holidays.

Paul

About our President

Paul D. Martin is President of the Center for Campus Fire Safety and chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention with the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control where he served as a principle architect of New York State’s nationally acclaimed Campus Fire Safety Program.

Charged with enforcing the fire safety laws and regulations of the state, one of the Bureau’s many responsibilities is conducting fire and life safety inspections of more than 15,000 buildings across the state of New York - including all colleges and universities.

Additionally, Bureau staff conducts a wide range of public fire safety education, fire and emergency preparedness training, including numerous specialty programs aimed at the college and university populace.

Holding an associate degree in fire science and a bachelor’s in public administration, Paul is a fire service veteran of thirty years and has served in several line and administrative positions.
Measuring the Impact of the Firewise Campus Project

are learned correctly, and after returning to the job, the effective application of the new knowledge and skills. With Firewise Campus participants located nationwide, observation of their actual on-the-job application was not practical.

In lieu of observation, use of a pre-class and post-class questionnaire served as the means to gauge learning and to gather on-the-job use of training materials.

The questionnaire given six months after class mirrored the pre-class questionnaire, with the addition of questions on specific tool use and success stories.

Selected phone interviews complimented the information gathered via the questionnaires.

The Audience:

The following descriptions are from the participants who completed the pre-course questionnaire.

Campus Size represented in pre-class questionnaires:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus Size</th>
<th>Percent of Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small - under 6,000 students</td>
<td>40.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium - between 6,000 - 10,000 students</td>
<td>16.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large - over 10,000 students</td>
<td>42.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the pre-class questionnaire, participants believed efforts can be improved for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Audience</th>
<th>Average response*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>3.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident assistant fire safety</td>
<td>4.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent education</td>
<td>4.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landlord education</td>
<td>3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>4.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 5 Point scale, (5) Strongly Agree - (1) Strongly Disagree

The Measurement Findings - Post Class:

Matching of the pre-questionnaires to the post-questionnaires was intended to provide an indication of course learning. Unfortunately, with only 53% of attendees actually completing the pre-class questionnaire, a comparative analysis of pre and post scores was not able to be completed as a cross section of all school sizes was not apparent.

While the questionnaires didn’t provide a quantifiable measure of change as the result of attending the workshop, they did reveal what and how tools and information from the Firewise Campus course are being used on campuses.
today. And the news is good!

**Efforts to Impact Campus Administration:**

Participants have used many of the public relations tools, studies and legislation materials as well as give away materials to influence their administration on Firewise Campus topics. Here are just a couple of the ways Firewise attendees are reaching campus policy makers:

- Dennis Harrington currently has a proposal before the President’s Policy committee to replace the use of flame lit candles with battery operated candles through the campus.
- Victoria Van Kirk started a Campus Fire Safety Task Force with members from other departments (Housing Services, Residential Education, EHS and Public Safety). Together, they convinced their administration to listen, and as a result they have changed fire evacuation procedures to limit the overall time that student staff stay in the buildings, and to excuse the desk receptionist staff from their post when a building is in a state of alarm.

**Focus on RAs and Students:**

Class participants have used videos and presentations from the Firewise Campus Tool Kit during New Student Orientations and Returning Student Orientations. Giveaways (such as stickers, door hangers and posters) are popular with this audience. Some have enhanced current RA training and others have implemented RA programs for the first time:

- Mike Lowe had success convincing Delaware State University to offer its first hand-on training for the R.A.’s.
- R.A. training expanded from one hour per year, to a half day of training for University of Arizona
- James Brundage organized Georgia State’s first Fire Safety Carnival to close out Fire Safety month
- EHS staff was asked, for the first time, to attend New Student and Parent Orientation at University of Central Oklahoma

A query to the participants of the Firewise Campus Project workshops just completed in early 2009 revealed that some folks immediately engaged various aspects of the program, they include:

- Texas State College just finished its second annual R.A. Fire Academy
- In August 2009, Tulane University conducted their first Housing and Resident Life Fire Academy, including demonstrations from the New Orleans Fire Department.

**Conclusions:**

By means of these classes nationwide, and the wide array of supporting class materials they include, hundreds of Campus Fire Safety Educators are better equipped to share the fire safety message. Over time, and through the tireless efforts of Firewise Campus graduates, hundreds of thousands of college and university students will not be just more fire safe on campus-they will have moved on and be living more fire safe lifestyles wherever they may be.

**In Their Own Words.... Selected Success Stories from Firewise Campus Participants**

**Robert Constant, New England College**

“For the first time at New England College we had a Fire Safety Table. I put together a short “Fire Safety Awareness” class for all freshmen (in groups of 40-50 at a time) during orientation. I addressed “Questions To Ask” (from your Tool kit) and explained what we have in place for the students safety, i.e.; smoke alarms, sprinklers, pull stations, fire extinguishers and CO detectors. I avoided using the word “DON’T” when explaining how and why the protection systems are in place. I showed the video “The morning show” with Dana Christmas. It was short and most had comments and questions after viewing the video.

I spoke with and got our local fire chief to sponsor an RA Fire Academy (without sponsorship we could not use the facility). I wanted to conduct this off campus.
I studied Boulder Colorado's program and set my own with the instructor. Ra's dawned protective gear, pulled dummies, used 1 3/4" fire hoses to knock over metal targets, went through the smoke house (theater smoke) in groups of 5, did a mock dorm room fire with a normal smoke detector and one detector covered in plastic to show the delay. The dorm room reached Flashover in 2min 30 sec. I got the fire chief in the City of Concord to send an aerial ladder. RA's were allowed to climb 20-30 feet. They loved the program and want to do it again next year. The RA academy was a refreshing and informative program for the RA's, got them off campus and out of the day-to-day classroom training.”

Jennifer Sorenson, University of Redlands

"We did work with the local fire department and conducted a smoke-filled hall drill using theatrical smoke for our hall staff training. This went VERY well and our staff were able to work with the Fire Department in a non-emergency setting and we received rave reviews. We did do the Olympics and had a Safety training day that included a bucket brigade, the smoke filled hall, fire extinguisher training, and classroom instruction on emergency procedures.

We were able to make use of several of the ideas/ppt. slides/handouts for this event and will definitely continue our efforts and possibly do some of the activities for all students, not just hall staff in the future. In the hall staff training evaluation our students responded that Safety Training Day was one of the most memorable and that they enjoyed the hands-on experiences.

We ended the day with a barbeque with safety staff and student hall staff and they only had positive things to say. This event was held as early arrivals were moving in and many parents were excited to see the cooperation with the city fire department.”

Gary Harper, New England College

“The Henniker Fire Department plays a very crucial role in educating the landlords. In sharing some of the materials we have, they are able to pass it along to the landlords during annual fire inspections. Knowing what we are looking for in the rental properties helps guide them to the same things we are educating students who move off campus. They were instrumental in creating the flyers we give to upper classmen to ensure landlords meet local codes. These handouts are available through our Student Life Department and we are always available for questions.”

Louis J. Mayer, Tulane University Health Sciences Center

“As a result of attending the Educator Class, with the cooperation of the Tulane University Housing and Residence Life (HRL), we have incorporated a new fire safety training program called HRL Fire Academy. The training program was established incorporating the tools presented at the class. During the new program we have presented the following topics: Fire Safety - New Orleans Fire Department, How to Evacuate a Smoke Filled Hallway, How to Use a Fire Extinguisher, and Fire Safety Inspection. The last item includes setting up fire safety deficiencies inside a room and requiring students to find them. The students have responded well to each of the presentations through their attendance and enthusiasm for the subjects. Instructors have noted a high level of response by the students when they participate in fire extinguisher training.”

Drew Standridge, University of Oregon

“One of the tools I found most helpful was the case study of the Seton Hall residence hall fire. This really struck a cord in the students, RA's, and administration since we still have a few halls that are not fully sprinkled. More case studies of actual events on campuses around the nation will be a helpful tool for fire safety personal to keep support strong for our programs.

I have also used the video of a residence room burn and the difference between a sprinkled room and a non-sprinkled room. This was very helpful as well. I looked forward to the next training in my area.”
Hearing about Firewise Campus Success from a 3rd party

By: Heather Keller, Director of Residential Life, Culver-Stockton College about the efforts of Mike Bringer, Director of Campus Safety

“Mike has gone to great lengths to promote awareness about fire safety and fire hazards on our campus, and has assembled a fantastic training for our Community Assistants on campus. Community Assistants (CA’s) are student staff members that work in our residence halls - akin to “RA’s” employed at other colleges and universities. Mike assembled a remarkable interactive training for these students where they received both practical classroom instruction on fire safety and awareness and also encountered simulated fire situations in real time.

Aside from a well-organized classroom instruction session, Mike worked with our local fire department to provide students with extended training that further emphasized the dangers imposed in a fire situation. Students were able to experience the limited visibility of a smoke-filled room, drag a mannequin of real human weight to simulate the work of fire rescue personnel, climb the ladder on a fire truck, extinguish small fires with a handheld fire extinguisher and, most importantly, witness a mock residence hall room set ablaze. The mock residence hall room burn was videotaped while onlookers stood at a safe distance, but CA’s were definitely impacted as they witnessed how quickly fire can catch and spread.

Mike’s combination of practical information and hands-on exploration in this training made CA’s acutely aware of fire hazards and fire safety in a way that we’ve never before explored on our campus.”

The following is from a message CCFS President Paul D. Martin received from the mother of a college student who attended a Firewise Campus workshop.

“My son attended the Firewise Campus seminar conducted in Columbus, Ohio during his spring break this past school year, as an undergraduate RA from a Pennsylvania college who is interested in Emergency Management. (He’s been trying to get things moving on his campus ever since the Virginia Tech disaster.) ... When he returned to campus after completing the program and told the Residence Life director what he’d learned, he was immediately appointed to the college Health and Safety Committee. Subsequently, he was offered a post as a graduate RA and was hired by the college to remain on campus during the summer to develop a fire safety education program to be incorporated into their freshman orientation this year.

The experience not only taught him about campus fire safety - he also got his first taste of building a professional network. And it was impressive enough on his resume that it helped him get accepted into his college’s prestigious Applied Intelligence Master’s Degree program. I thought you might like to know how your program helped to shape a budding young professional.”

... Margie Fusco
In an email from

Victoria H. Van Kirk, Housing Facility Manager
DePaul University, Dept. of Housing Services, to
Guy Swartwout, Firewise Campus trainer....

“Since leaving the Firewise Training in Columbus, the DePaul Group has put together a Campus Fire Safety Task Force. We have representatives from Environmental Health & Safety, Public Safety, Residential Education, Housing Services, and student employees. We have started with two meetings per quarter and we have plans to promote Campus Fire Safety Month, build stronger relationships with local Emergency Response Personnel, and we are trying to re-write our current procedures on Fire Evacuation for Student Staff and professional live-on staff.

We are also working on putting together a joint training for RA and FA (Facilities Assistants) training in late August.

The info you gave me along with your credentials is perfect in helping us convince the administrators that we need new and better plans.

I remember from our training that you said “Good luck does not always equal good practice” and that is a message we are trying to bring to the surface. We learned a lot during our training, we made an action plan, and now we are making it happen with the guidelines and ideas from Firewise. I’ll keep you posted on how things are coming along.

On a side note, I was paged for an issue early Sunday morning at 1:20AM. A sprinkler head was tampered with in one of our residence halls by a guest of a summer resident. The sprinkler head activated and facility operations could not get it to turn off for over 20 minutes so you can imagine what we have been dealing with since then.”
Got 4 minutes?
… Take the Campus Safety 4-Minute Fire Survey

Campus Safety magazine is conducting its second annual fire survey. All individuals who are involved in university, school and hospital fire safety are encouraged to participate.

The poll will take about four minutes to complete. All answers, E-mail addresses, participant names and campus identities will remain confidential and will only be used in tabulation with other responses. The results of this poll will appear in the January/February 2009 issue of Campus Safety magazine.

The survey will be open to campus protection professionals until Dec. 10.

To take the survey, click here, or paste this link into your browser:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=NE1oF6a3ze61GXpOUaM5_2bA_3d_3d

Campus protection professionals are also encouraged to forward this survey to officials at other campuses who are interested in creating more awareness about the state of campus fire detection, prevention and response.
12 Important Points about Heating Safety

1. In 2002, 68 percent of home heating fires involved fireplaces, space heaters and chimneys, according to the latest figures available from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

2. Of the 220 fatalities associated with home heating fires - 85 percent were associated with alternative heating sources. The 85 percent breaks down to include 46 percent for portable space heaters, 28 percent for woodstoves and other fixed space heaters, and 11 percent for fireplaces and chimneys.

3. Residential energy use is expected to increase by 9 percent by 2010 largely due to population growth and technology improvement (Alliance to Save Energy).

4. Use space heaters only as a supplementary source of heat. These devices are not intended to replace the home's heating system. Keep all space heaters at least 3 feet away from household combustibles.

5. Install smoke alarms to warn of a fire, but also have carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in the home to warn about faulty furnace, fireplace and oven flues or any other venting problems.

6. Select heating equipment that bears the UL Mark. The UL Mark on a product means that UL engineers have tested representative samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards.

7. Install and maintain heating equipment correctly, and be sure it complies with local fire and building codes. Have local building or certified maintenance and repair technicians check and clean your heating system once a year.

8. Have your chimney inspected by a professional heating technician prior to the start of every heating season and have it cleaned if necessary. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if not removed.

9. Always protect your family and home by using a sturdy fireplace screen in front of a fire.

10. Remember to burn only wood -- never burn paper or pine boughs, which can float out the chimney and ignite your roof or a neighboring home. Do not use flammable liquids in a fireplace.

11. If you are purchasing a factory-built fireplace, select one that is UL Listed and have it properly installed according to local codes.

12. Do not start fires in your fireplace if the area around the fireplace and mantle are decorated with stockings or other combustible decorations.
Fire Safety Specialist

Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA

Summary
Candidates in this position are responsible for the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, and control of fire and safety hazards at Drexel University. It is their job to work with Drexel departments to minimize fire and safety risks and to manage compliance with applicable University policies and fire code requirements.

Education:
Minimum 2-3 years post-high school

Experience:
0-2 years, Fire service preferred (Volunteer or Paid)

Other: Must have completed or be able to complete CPR, Basic firefighter school, etc.

Qualifications
- Knowledge of state and local fire codes and regulations pertaining to fire safety and fire code compliance.
- Knowledge of organizational and personnel management skills.
- Creative problem solving to recognize and analyze needs and assist in the development of programs to address needs.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to work within a team setting.
- Ability to use computer database and spreadsheet programs.
- Basic knowledge of fire principles.
- Ability to locate and use appropriate technical resources in fire safety.
- Ability to lift and carry materials and equipment.
- Physically able to serve on response team.
- Be available for after hours response, if needed.
- Developed professional presentation skills.

Responsibilities
Possesses knowledge of basic theories, concepts, practices, and procedures in the area of fire safety. Applies the knowledge to work assignments to meet specific department goals and objectives.

Develops solutions to problems of limited scope.

Under supervision of the Director, performs assigned tasks using standard procedures.

Expected to act with increasing independence but all work will be reviewed by the Director.

1. Assist with comprehensive safety and fire code audits of University departments and buildings. Be able to recognize some deficiencies and hazards independently, and be able to research findings to determine extent of possible hazards.

2. Work with departments to correct fire safety hazards and develop preventive procedures.

3. Assist with training classes and materials and deliver training courses that have already been developed.

4. Act as an Office of Fire and Life Safety representative to other departments, acting as a technical advisor on fire safety issues.

5. Write reports documenting observations, and recommendations for Director’s review. Assist with writing reports to other departments.


7. Serve as a member of Drexel University Response Team (DURT)

8. Other duties as assigned by supervisor.

Supplemental Posting Information
Candidates must submit to and satisfactorily pass (proven to be drug free) a pre-employment urinalysis drug test.

Motor Vehicle Check (MVC) required: Yes

Employee Type: Full Time
Stationary Engineer

Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA

Summary
The Drexel University Facilities department is seeking a qualified candidate to be responsible for proper care, maintenance and operation of building systems; heating, ventilation, air conditioning, water treatment, automatic temperature controls, emergency generators, fire alarm systems, fire protection systems and utility distribution systems.

Qualifications
- High School diploma or GED required;
- Vocational technical school certification or equivalent for HVAC and/or building systems preferred;
- At least four years experience in systems operations or equivalent preferred;
- Engineer Certificate Grade A, as well as CFC Universal Certification;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills;
- Ability to read and interpret schematics;
- Valid driver’s license required.

Responsibilities
- Operate equipment and complete work in accordance with codes;
- Practice and adhere to safety requirements and directives;
- Participate in emergency maintenance coverage as required;
- Participate in on-call system;
- Other duties as assigned.

Supplemental Posting Information
Ability to work all shifts.

Work Week
40/hrs.

Work Schedule
To be determined

Valid Driver’s License
Required

Motor Vehicle Check (MVC) required
Yes

Employee Type
Full Time

Home Department Name
3722 Mechanical Services

Recruiting Salary
$52,644.80

Position Location
Main Campus

Job Open Date
10-21-2009

Job Close Date
Open Until Filled

Job Category
Union Engineer

Requisition Number
2605

For More Information
https://www.drexeljobs.com/
The Center for Campus Fire Safety is pleased to unveil our new Library of Resources! Our new library includes articles from Campus Firezone, White Papers, Presentations, and much more ... and that’s just a starting point for us. We’ll continue building our library month after month.

Take a look at our sections, search through our documents ... and let us know what you think!

The library is being maintained by our Support Team—but your input is important. If you have suggestions to improve our content, simply let us know!

www.campusfiresafety.org/library
SupportTeam@campusfiresafety.org

Another helpful source of info for Campus Fire and Life Safety Officials!
And now for some good news! Those participating in the recently concluded 2009/2010 International Codes Council Code Development Hearings in Baltimore were witness to an unprecedented discussion of issues introduced by safety professionals toiling away in the fields of academia. A new willingness to recognize the unique needs and concerns of the college community was openly apparent. Hopefully, we are entering a new era; let’s keep up the momentum!

Among those from “our crowd” proposing code changes, was Kathleen Way, a fire protection specialist with the New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control, a notable presence on the campus scene. Concerned about the visible deterioration of fire escapes on aging buildings so common in the east, Kathleen proposed that the inspection requirements of the 2009 International Fire Code be strengthened. The Fire Code Committee agreed, and unanimously supported the addition of a new section, 4604.17.5.1. As proposed, it states: “Fire escape stairs and balconies shall be examined for structural adequacy... by a registered design professional or others acceptable to the fire code official every five years, or as required by the fire code official. An inspection report shall be submitted to the fire code official after such examination.”

While it is true that Way’s proposal still must be ratified by the entire voting body before it is enacted and it is true that it may be years before this provision becomes operable in jurisdictions adopting the IFC, “a word to the wise is sufficient.” The concerns raised by this proposal are here with us now.

As Kathleen reminds us, fire escapes are often a required and essential means of egress, offering escape from buildings made from combustible materials, built before any uniform safety standards were in place. At any time they may be called upon to function as the only way out of a blazing inferno. She also reminds us of the importance of these structures to the fire service in rescue and suppression operations. Are your fire escapes ready for the demanding load imposed by students fleeing down them or firefighters racing up them?

Unfortunately, a quick visual inspection, while helpful in identifying obvious structural issues, is not adequate in determining the overall safety of a fire escape. There are many essential components that need the scrutiny of a real professional. There are critical welds that are not readily visible in a cursory examination. Likewise, an untrained observer is not equipped to determine the condition of hardware fastening the structure to the building. Keep in mind, when fire escapes are put to the test in a real incident, we are talking of a live load, shaking and rattling the aged steel members. Inspection of fire escapes is no job for amateurs.

Often times, a professional examination determines that a fire escape is indeed unsafe for use. Sometimes this provides an opportunity for enhancing the total safety of the building. There are instances where the need for a second means of egress from some buildings can be eliminated by installing automatic fire sprinklers throughout. To me, taking this option, when it is available, produces a net gain in safety, not only in fire...
safety, but in personal safety as well. I can’t think of a college official that does not dread the thought of students crawling out a window onto a fire escape or for that matter, uninvited individuals crawling in a window from a fire escape.

Let’s be perfectly clear, however, on one point: Installing sprinklers and removing a fire escape is only an option on some buildings. A design professional and of course, the code authority having jurisdiction, must be consulted to determine if this is a viable option. If it is, using the money otherwise needed to reconstruct a fire escape for the installation of sprinkler system is a worthwhile trade-off.

For those unable to use the sprinkler exemption, there is only one choice: maintenance. (Of course sprinklers are always a good idea anyway!) Needless to say, all structural defects need to be corrected at once. But there is a whole lot more required. As an egress component, fire escapes need to be “continuously maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency” (IFC 1030.2, 2009). Also, “a means of egress shall be free from obstructions that would prevent its use, including the accumulation of snow and ice” (IFC 1030.3). We don’t know when the next emergency will be; they are seldom at a convenient time.

And last, but not least, there is preventive maintenance. At a minimum, “all exposed surfaces...shall be protected from the elements and against decay or rust by periodic application of weather-coating materials, such as paint or similar surface treatment” (IPMC 304.9, 2009). As with many situations in life, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Look, fire escapes are a relic from the past. But like my 30 year-old LP collection, with the proper care and respect, on a really bad day they can be a real lifesaver!

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 Campus Fire Safety, its officers, directors or its editorial staff.

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:
theinspector@campusfiresafety.org
According to the U.S. CPSC, approximately 400 fires annually are attributed to Christmas trees. These fires account for 10-15 deaths, some 80 injuries and more than $15 million in property damage. In tests performed at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in 1999 to better understand the severity of Christmas tree fires, eight Scotch pine Christmas trees were placed in a room at 73°F (23°C) at approximately 50-percent relative humidity for approximately three weeks. Seven of the eight trees were given no additional moisture; the eighth tree was watered according to local rules for trees within business occupancies. This required the tree to be cut in a certain manner and placed in a stand with at least a 2-gallon (7.6 L) capacity. The seven dry trees were ignited and burned intensely; however, the tree that had been watered continuously throughout the three weeks could not be ignited. This section requires at least a 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) of tree trunk to be removed above the original cut to make sure the tree has the optimum ability to absorb water to maintain a minimum level of moisture. This section also requires a support device (tree stand or equivalent) that meets the criteria of this section. This device is intended to ensure the correct amount of moisture is in contact with the tree. The specifics of this section cannot realistically be monitored in all buildings within a jurisdiction. The focus must be on occupancies such as assembly or mercantile. All occupancies benefit, however, because there is now a method that a fire department could use to educate the general public on the treatment of Christmas trees. This tool can be helpful in fire prevention within a jurisdiction.

806.1.1 Restricted occupancies. Natural cut trees shall be prohibited in Group A, E, I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, M, R-1, R-2 and R-4 occupancies.

Exceptions:
1. Trees located in areas protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 shall not be prohibited in Groups A, E, M, R-1 and R-2.

2. Trees shall be allowed within dwelling units in Group R-2 occupancies.

Although trees that have been properly watered and handled are less hazardous; there is still a concern that they should not be located in certain occupancies. The occupancies listed in this section are those where the occupant load is high, occupants are vulnerable or the potential hazards that exist if the tree is not properly handled are too great. These occupancies include Groups A, E, I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, M, R-1 and R-2. There are exceptions for Group A, E, M, R-1 and R-2 occupancies when the trees are located in areas that are sprinklered in accordance with NFPA13 or 13R, as applicable, and for trees within individual dwelling units in Group R-2. Essentially, the only occupancies that would be completely prohibited from having cut trees are institutional occupancies because of the vulnerability of the occupants and, in some cases, concerns for incendiary tendencies of some occupants.

806.1.2 Support devices. The support device that holds the tree in an upright position shall be of a type that is stable and that meets all of the following criteria:

1. The device shall hold the tree securely and be of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree.

2. The device shall be capable of containing a minimum two-day supply of water.

3. The water level, when full, shall cover the tree stem at least 2 inches (51 mm). The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once daily.

This section is intended to ensure that the tree will not tip over, potentially into an ignition source, and that the support device is designed and used to keep the water supply to the tree at a useful level. More specifically, Item 1 requires the device to prevent the tree from tipping; Item 2 states that the device must be capable of holding a two-day water supply and Item 3 requires a minimum coverage of water to 2 inches (51 mm) above the bottom of the stem. The water level must be checked at least once daily to ensure an adequate supply remains. The restrictions in Section 806.1.1 are in place because the provisions in Section 806.1.2 are generally difficult for a fire department to monitor. Having a sprinkler system or generally prohibiting natural cut trees in the higher risk occupancies provides a redundancy to deal with the potential hazards.

806.1.3 Dryness. The tree shall be removed from the building whenever the needles or leaves fall off readily when a tree bent between the thumb and index finger. The tree shall be checked daily for dryness.

Lack of moisture is the primary problem with natural cut trees within buildings. This section describes a daily test to assist in evaluating whether the tree is considered too dry to remain in the building.

806.2 Artificial vegetation. Artificial decorative vegetation shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701. Meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 shall be documented and certified by the manufacturer in an approved manner.

Much of the attention of Section 806 has been on natural vegetation, primarily Christmas trees. This particular section addresses artificial vegetation, which generally contains a high concentration of plastic material in the form of plastic artificial leaves, rather than natural ones. The goal, therefore, is to reduce the initial ignitability by treating artificial vegetation with flame retardants to improve fire performance or to use materials that have intrinsically better fire performance.

806.3 Obstruction of means of egress. The required width of any portion of a means of egress shall not be obstructed by decorative vegetation.

Decorative vegetation is often placed in a location that does not normally accommodate combustibles. This section restricts locations so that the vegetation does not block the egress width and increase the fire hazard in such areas. For example, this would likely prohibit trees in main lobby areas of a movie theater.

806.4 Open flame. Candles and open flames shall not be used on or near decorative vegetation. Natural cut trees shall be kept a distance from heat vents and any open
flame or heat-producing devices at least equal to the height of the tree.

This section addresses the primary ignition hazards associated with decorative vegetation. More specifically, candles should never be placed on or near Christmas trees. Also, heat sources such as heat vents may pose an ignition hazard in addition to being a source of airflow that could dry out a tree, making it more susceptible to ignition.

806.5 Electrical fixtures and wiring. The use of unlisted electrical wiring and lighting on natural cut trees and artificial decorative vegetation shall be prohibited. The use of electrical wiring and lighting on artificial trees constructed entirely of metal shall be prohibited.

Decorations are quite often used year after year on Christmas trees. Some of this décor consists of lights that are not specifically listed and that can fail and become very hot, potentially posing an ignition source. Additionally, this wiring may arc and create an ignition source. In fact, it has been found that many Christmas tree fires have actually been started by the decorative lights on them. Therefore, this section simply prohibits the use of unlisted wiring or lighting (such lights and ornaments are listed in accordance with UL 588). Additionally, because of the shock and ignition potential resulting from a short or direct contact of part of the tree with one of the light sockets, electrical wiring and lighting is not allowed on metal trees.

SECTION 807
DECORATIVE MATERIALS OTHER THAN DECORATIVE VEGETATION IN NEW AND EXISTING BUILDINGS

807.1 General requirements. In occupancies in Groups A, E, I and R-1 and dormitories in Group R-2, curtains, draperies, hangings and other decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 in accordance with Section 806.2 or be noncombustible.

In Groups I-1 and I-2, combustible decorative materials shall meet the flame propagation criteria of NFPA 701 unless the decorative materials, including, but not limited to, photographs and paintings, are of such limited quantities that a hazard of fire development or spread is not present. In Group I-3, combustible decorative materials are prohibited. Fixed or movable walls and partitions, paneling, wall pads and crash pads, applied structurally or for decoration, acoustical correction, surface insulation or other purposes, shall be considered interior finish if they cover 10 percent or more of the wall or of the ceiling area, and shall not be considered decorative materials or furnishings. In Group B and M occupancies, fabric partitions suspended from the ceiling and not supported by the floor shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria in accordance with Section 807.2 and NFPA 701 or shall be noncombustible.

The requirements in this section apply to decorative materials installed in Group A, E, I and R-1 occupancies and dormitories in Group R-2 occupancies. The list of groups is based on the number of persons and the condition or capabilities of the occupants to evacuate quickly in an emergency. Decorative materials must be noncombustible or meet the flame propagation performance criteria of Section 807.2 and NFPA 701. The requirements for Groups I-1 and I-2 become more stringent because of the nature of the occupants and activities in these types of facilities. Combustible materials in these facilities must meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701, but a limited amount of decorative materials, such as photographs and paintings, need not be flame retardant. No combustible decorative materials are permitted in Group I-3 facilities. In any occupancy when a movable wall, partition, paneling, wall pads or crash pads cover larger areas they need to be dealt with as interior finishes. Larger areas would not fit within the scope of this section if the area covered is greater than 10 percent of the wall or ceiling area. This is clarified in the third paragraph of this section. This section also clarifies that in Group B and M occupancies fabric partitions suspended from the ceiling but not physically contacting the floor should be treated as decorative materials similar to curtains or draperies and comply with NFPA 701.

807.1.1 Noncombustible materials. The permissible amount of noncombustible decorative material shall not be limited.

Where decorative materials are classified as noncombustible, they are presumed to contribute little, if at all, to the growth and spread of fire; therefore, the quantity of noncombustible decorative materials is not limited.
807.1.2 Combustible decorative materials. The permissible amount of decorative materials meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 shall not exceed 10 percent of the aggregate area of walls and ceilings.

Exceptions:

1. In auditoriums in Group A, the permissible amount of decorative material meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 shall not exceed 50 percent of the aggregate area of walls and ceiling where the building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, and where the material is installed in accordance with Section 803.4 of the International Building Code.

2. The amount of fabric partitions suspended from the ceiling and not supported by the floor in Group B and M occupancies shall not be limited.

Meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 does not mean that the materials will not burn, only that they are going to spread flame relatively slowly. These materials are, therefore, limited to a maximum of 10-percent of the total wall and ceiling area of the space under consideration. Unlike incidental trim, decorative materials are not necessarily distributed evenly throughout the room. Additionally, consideration of the long-term maintenance of the materials, including possible periodic retreatment, should be taken into account. There are two exceptions to the 10-percent limitation in Section 807.1.2. Exception 1 is for Group A auditoriums that would allow 50-percent coverage of the walls and ceilings (instead of the limit of 10 percent) if the space is sprinklered in accordance with NFPA 13 and the material is applied in accordance with Section 803.3 of the IBC. Exception 2 correlates with the general requirements in Section 807.1 and further emphasizes that an unlimited amount of fabric ceiling partitions are allowed as long as they meet the flame propagation performance of NFPA 701.

807.2 Acceptance criteria and reports. Where required to be flame resistant, decorative materials shall be tested by an approved agency and meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701, or such materials shall be noncombustible. Reports of test results shall be prepared in accordance with NFPA 701 and furnished to the fire code official upon request.

The standard test method to be used to evaluate the ability of a material to propagate flame is NFPA 701 which contains two test methods. Test 1 is a smaller scale test than Test 2, and is intended for lighter weight materials and single-layer fabrics (the limit is a linear density of 700 g/m², or 21 oz/yd²). Test 2 is a larger scale test and it is intended for the higher density materials, such as coated fabric black-out linings. NFPA 701 sets out the types of materials, including fabrics that should be tested using each method. Essentially, NFPA 701 provides a mechanism to distinguish between materials that allow flames to spread quickly and those that do not, using a moderate fire exposure. Materials tested only to NFPA 701 are not permitted for use as interior finish materials, but instead are generally used as shades, swags, curtains and other similar materials. These tests are used to determine whether materials propagate flame beyond the area exposed to the ignition source. They are not intended to indicate whether the material tested will resist the propagation of flame under fire exposures more extreme than the test conditions.

Randall Hormann, Director, CCFS

Randall L. Hormann is currently a Program Coordinator and Fire Training Officer for the State of Ohio Fire Marshal’s Office and the Ohio Fire Academy.

Randy has over 15 plus years in fire safety and public education for two large Division I Universities in the State of Ohio. As the executive director of a campus fire safety consulting firm, he has consulted and lectured across county and for such organizations as NFPA, MARSH & CSHEMA.

Randy has been a fire fighter for over 25 years and is strong advocate of fire safety education at the college & university level. A graduate of the National Fire Academy, Randy is a firm believer in the ideals of “Everyone Goes Home and Everyone Graduates”. 
NFPA 1 Fire Code Chapter 20

Chapter 20 deals with occupancy fire safety requirements such as evacuation and egress drills, furnishings, and inspections. Chapter 20 was reorganized for the 2009 edition. This update will permit the addition of new requirements without requiring renumbering. The Committee believes that this effort will serve as an aid to users of the Code in finding material from edition to edition in the future. The format of this chapter is:

20.1 General
20.2 Reserved
20.3 Protection
20.4 Special Provisions
20.5 Reserved
20.6 Reserved
20.7 Operating Features

20.5 Residential Board and Care Occupancies

The primary characteristics that differentiate residential board and care occupancies from other residential occupancies is the assumed ability (or lack thereof) of occupants to evacuate the building in the event of a fire or similar emergency and the availability or level of personal care services. Personal care, as defined in 3.3.187, includes assistance with many of the activities of daily living. Personal care services might include assisting residents with bathing and dressing and helping residents with bill payment and similar household maintenance-related tasks. Personal care does not include nursing home-type care; nor does it include medical care.

Prior to the 2003 edition of the Code, application of the requirements for both new and existing residential board and care facilities required the determination of the occupants’ evacuation capability — that is, the occupants’ ability to move, as a group, to a point of safety in the event of a fire. Evacuation capability was broken down into three subclasses — prompt, slow, and impractical. Ongoing evaluation by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) was required to ensure the facility was not being used outside the limitations of its design (e.g., a facility designed and constructed using the provisions for slow evacuation capability actually having an impractical evacuation capability). When tasked with the development of provisions for residential board and care facilities to be included in NFPA 5000®, Building Construction and Safety Code®, the NFPA Technical Committee on Board and Care Facilities recognized that, because a facility’s population is expected to change over time, a facility’s evacuation capability will likely change over time as well. It was not, then, practical to simply insert the requirements from this Code into NFPA 5000. As such, the committee modified the requirements for new board and care facilities so as not to depend on the
evacuation capability of the occupants of the facility.

For consistency with NFPA 5000, the committee also revised the provisions of Chapter 32 of NFPA 101, which address new facilities, so they no longer depend on the determination of evacuation capability. Chapter 33 of NFPA 101, which addresses existing facilities, retains the evacuation capability provisions so as to not place existing facilities out of compliance. Since new board and care facilities might contain occupants who do not have the ability to evacuate without assistance, they must be designed and constructed to facilitate the “defend-in-place” occupant protection strategy, much like health care occupancies. To utilize the defend-in-place strategy, the building must be able to withstand the effects of fire for the time necessary to either evacuate the occupants or relocate them to a safe location within the building.

Section 20.5 classifies residential board and care occupancies based on the number of residents. For this purpose, the chapters are further subdivided to address requirements for small (16 or fewer residents) and large (more than 16 residents) facilities. As the number of residents put at risk by fire increases, the requirements naturally become stricter.

Of the determinations that must be made to classify a residential board and care occupancy (i.e., availability of personal care, number of residents, and, in the case of existing facilities, evacuation capability), the most difficult is evacuation capability. Evacuation capability is established on the basis of the occupants’ (i.e., residents and staff working together) ability to move to a safe location, such as an enclosed exit stair or a point outside of the structure. The term evacuation capability is defined in 3.3.70 of NFPA 101; A.3.3.70 of NFPA 101 provides guidance on classifying evacuation capability.

Where an existing facility does not comply with the requirements for new facilities in Chapter 32 of NFPA 101, Chapter 33 of NFPA 101 requires facility management to furnish the AHJ with an evacuation capability determination conducted using a procedure acceptable to the AHJ. If such documentation is not furnished, the evacuation capability is considered, by default, as impractical.

As in the case of other occupancy chapters that address occupants with limited self-preservation capability, Section 20.5 relies on staff intervention and staff support to assist the residents during fire and similar emergencies. It is the responsibility of the staff to understand and implement the emergency plan for the facility. The plan must include a method for familiarizing residents with the procedures to be followed during a fire.

REFERENCES THIS MATERIAL CAN BE FOUND IN:

Commentary Reference
NFPA 1_, Fire Code_, 2009 edition
Commentary comments are in italic font
Code References
NFPA 1_, Uniform Fire Code_, 2009 edition
Holiday Season Safety in Fraternity/Sorority and University Housing

Fraternity houses, sorority houses, and university housing in converted dwellings are found on and around university campuses. These properties pose many of the same life safety hazards posed by rooming houses. In most cases, these properties are occupied by young adults who might be prone to risky behavior—for example, smoking, consuming alcohol, and using controlled substances—which can serve to increase the life safety hazard.

Each year, nearly 156,000 fires in the United States occur during the winter holiday season claiming nearly 630 lives, 2,600 injuries, and $936 million in property damage. Of these, 47,000 residential structure fires kill 530, injure 2,200, and cause an estimated $554 million in property damage.

Fire loads increase during the holiday season. Many homes are decorated with seasonal garlands, electric lights, candles, banners, or displays. Probably the most popular addition to the home during the holiday season, and a significant fire hazard, is the Christmas tree. Dried-out fir and pine Christmas trees ignite easily and can accelerate fire growth by spreading rapidly to nearby combustible materials in the home.

Loss Measures

Winter holiday fires, like winter fires in general, are more severe than fires on the average day. In addition, winter fires that occur during the winter holidays have slightly higher losses (1 to 2 percent) than fires that occur in the remaining winter season.

The losses are highest for those holiday fires that occur in residential structures. Some of these of these holiday residential structure fires are particularly of concern. Such is the case where decorations, candles, and Christmas trees are involved in the ignition. The injury rates are higher and, in the case of Christmas tree fires, the dollar loss per fire is significantly higher. Winter holiday residential structure fires have three times the dollar loss per fire when Christmas trees are the first material ignited than those fires that are ignited by other materials. Fatalities per fire when a Christmas tree is the first material ignited is nearly eight times that of other winter holiday fires.

Causes

Cooking is the leading cause of residential structure fires year round, followed by heating and incendiary/suspicious. During the winter and winter holiday season, however, heating supplants cooking as the leading cause of residential structure fires. Winter holiday fires show a slight increase in electrical distribution and open flame fires over winter residential fires, in large part as a result of the increase in candle, Christmas tree, and decoration fires.

Decorations

Residential structure fires where the form of material ignited is a decoration tend to injure many people, although not to the degree of fires started by candles or Christmas trees. Although deaths in these fires are extremely rare, injuries soar with as many as 60 injuries per 1,000 fires. Approximately 330 residential structure fires occur each winter holiday where decorations are involved in the ignition.

Residential structure fires where decorations are involved occur more frequently during the winter holiday season. Approximately nine residential structure fires occur per day during the winter holiday season compared to two per day during the rest of the year. Homeowners should be cautious in the placement of decorations during the winter holiday season. Placing decor-
Candle Fires

Many people decorate their homes with candles during the winter holiday season. Consequently, candle fires increase fourfold during this period. More than 1,600 residential structure fires occur each winter holiday season where candles are the form of heat of ignition. Candle fires kill more than 10 people, injure another 175, and cause more than $20 million in property damage each holiday season. For every 1,000 residential structure fires where candles are the form of heat of ignition, 7 people die and 115 people are injured. Candle fires cause an estimated $12,200 in property damage per fire.

Christmas Trees

Many homes have Christmas trees during the winter holiday season. While few in number, Christmas tree fires lead to significant losses in residential structure fires. There are about five residential structure fires per day during the winter holiday season. The number of residential structure fires where Christmas trees are the form of material first ignited are relatively low in the beginning of the winter holiday season and increase significantly through the holiday season. Each year more than 200 residential structure fires occur where Christmas trees are the form of material first ignited.

As the winter holiday season progresses, live or cut Christmas trees and greens dry out. Living plants (including trees) do not burn as easily as dead ones. As plants die, they dry out and become more combustible. Some of these fires can be prevented by shortening the time the tree is in the home and by keeping the tree watered. The use of artificial Christmas trees will also lower the incidence of tree fires in residences.

Conclusion

During the winter Holiday season, the fireload inside a home increases. As a result of this increased fuel, losses from residential structure fires increase. Especially tragic are those fires caused by decorations, candles, and Christmas trees. Efforts must be made to make a fire-safe home, especially during the winter holiday season. Homeowners must be aware of the increased fire hazards present in their homes during this festive time of year.

Fire and life safety protection involves providing adequate means of escape, detection and alarm systems, bedrooms that are separated from corridors by smoke-resistant walls and self-closing doors, and automatic sprinkler systems.

Serious fires in student housing wreak almost unimaginable devastation and disruption; this potential warrants careful consideration of fire safety options. In particular, automatic sprinkler systems should be considered as a viable option; they have established an impressive record of preventing residential fire catastrophes, particularly in the hospitality industry. With technologies developed specifically for residential applications, automatic sprinkler systems are now commonplace in hotels and motels, where they afford the traveling public with a high level of fire safety. College students deserve this same high level of protection ... and their parents expect it.

Timothy P. Travers, EFO, CFO
New England Regional Manager
National Fire Sprinkler Assn.

Tim has an extensive background in fire protection including over 35 years of service with the Whitman, Massachusetts Fire Department, a suburb of Boston.

With over twenty years as Chief of Department, he has many appointments to his credit, including the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, Special Operations Team where he served as an Operations Chief; the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission where he was elected as Chairman; the Task Force on Fire & Building Safety, a committee charged with making a comprehensive review of the Commonwealth’s building and fire codes; and the Fire Science Technology Program Advisory Board at Massasoit Community College.

Tim is a Life Member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He can be contacted at Travers@NFSA.org.
C-News started by CCFS Board Member, Randy Hormann. The new and improved C-News online daily enhances these efforts and now includes daily news stories, and automatic archiving. Working with members of the University of New Haven Fire Science Club, the CCFS News Reporting Team searches and reviews news daily to ensure that we only post relative stories.

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NEWS

Guilty plea in McMaster arson [CCFS Reporter] [November 29, 2009 7:49 am] ➤ Full article

(Nov 28, 2009) - The man who set fire to his own McMaster University residence building last year has pleaded guilty to arson endangering human life.

Getting schooled in firefighting - The Times of Trenton - NJ.com [CCFS Reporter] [November 29, 2009 7:49 am] ➤ Full article

Getting schooled in firefightingThe Times of Trenton - NJ.comOn the university side, the program is coordinated by Demareski, the assistant vice president for facilities, and University Fire Marshal Bob Gregory.

Food left on stove causes fire at ICC Woodview Commons - Peoria Journal Star [CCFS Reporter] [November 26, 2009 7:32 am] ➤ Full article

Food left on stove causes fire at ICC Woodview CommonsPeoria Journal StarHe said only two of the units could not longer be lived in as a result of the fire. Ward said the tenants will be moved to other vacant units on campus.

Regular false fire alarms could lead to fatalities - The Edinburgh Journal [CCFS Reporter] [November 25, 2009 6:00 am] ➤ Full article

The Edinburgh JournalRegular false fire alarms could lead to fatalitiesThe Edinburgh JournalRecords kept by the University’s Fire Safety Unit show that Lochian Fire Station alone has to respond to over 300 false fire alarms at the University of...

MCTC campus evacuated because of false fire alarm - Morehead News [CCFS Reporter] [November 25, 2009 6:00 am] ➤ Full article

MCTC campus evacuated because of false fire alarmMorehead News... College-Rawson Campus had a scare Monday morning when an oxygen tank exploded, causing a fire, according to Morehead Fire Chief Jeff Anderson.

deafwatch Fire Alarm for the Deaf Installed at the University of Northampton - PRLog.Org (press release) [CCFS Reporter] [November 25, 2009 6:09 am] ➤ Full article

deafwatch Fire Alarm for the Deaf Installed at the University of NorthamptonPRLog.Org (press release)The more complex Park Campus has fire alarm signals that report to the 24 hour security centre at reception. A cost effective solution was to cover the...
CCFS supports the USFA Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign ...

More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year in the United States; most of whom are in homes without a working smoke alarm. To prevent these deaths, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is sponsoring a nationwide Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign designed to raise awareness about how working, properly installed smoke alarms can lower a person’s chances of dying in a fire. CCFS is supporting this critical effort to reduce injuries and the loss of life.

The USFA's Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign is aimed at encouraging Americans to practice fire safety by installing and maintaining smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers, which can help save the lives of residents and fire fighters, practicing fire escape plans, and performing a home safety walkthrough to remove fire hazards from the home. The campaign is promoting fire safety through a free Campaign Toolkit disc; educational materials; print, radio and television PSAs; children's materials, community organization-sponsored events and a consumer-friendly campaign Web site.

According to Paul D. Martin, President “ CCFS is proud to be a partner with the USFA in this very relevant campaign. Far too many people have died in fires as a result of not having working smoke alarms or sprinklers. One person killed in a home fire is just too many. Together, we can educate our communities and help save lives.”

>>> MORE INFORMATION
**Fire forces 153 from Bucknell University dorm**

By Diane Petryk, The Daily Item

LEWISBURG — No one was injured, but a dormitory room fire displaced one Bucknell University student and forced 152 other occupants of Harris Hall to flee the building at 4 a.m. Monday.

Some of the students sought shelter next door at Larison Hall, and others waited outside for an hour before they were allowed back into their rooms, said Bucknell spokesman Tom Evelyn, director of media relations.

The fire was quickly extinguished by the building’s sprinkler system, he said, and was out before firefighters arrived. Three fire companies responded: Lewisburg, Milton and Mifflinburg. The first truck arrived at 4:16.

Evelyn said the damage was confined to the one room and mostly was caused by smoke and water.

The displaced student, who was not identified, was provided with alternative housing. The damaged room was occupied by only one student.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, he said.

Smoking is prohibited in all dorm rooms. If a student broke a rule, like the smoking prohibition, he or she might have to pay for the damages, Evelyn said.

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**ATTN: AHJ’s**

**Automatic Fire Alarm Association (AFAA) offers free membership to AHJ’s.**

Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ’s) can be members of AFAA at no cost. This membership is called a Class I-3 membership. While this membership is similar to other classes within the AFAA member structure, it does not carry voting privileges.

The Automatic Fire Alarm Association was formed in 1953 and is exclusively dedicated to representing the automatic fire detection and fire alarm systems industry. The membership is made up of all segments of industry (manufacturers, distributors, state and regional associations, users, AHJs, engineers, and others).

The Association is committed to the dissemination of knowledge and endeavors to provide the best, most accessible training available.

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When all or parts of a building are required to be fire-resistant or have fire resistance, the model building codes typically require that the fire protection be achieved by some sort of fire-resistant rated "assembly." What is an "assembly?"

An assembly is a combination of materials put together in a specific way that achieves the fire resistance rating required in the building code. For example, today's illustration shows only part of an assembly: gypsum wallboard applied to a steel stud. In order to achieve a minimum fire resistance rating, both sides of the steel stud would have to be covered with fire-rated gypsum wallboard. Fire-resistance ratings apply only to assemblies in their entirety.

There is a large variety of assemblies that can be constructed to satisfy code requirements. Assemblies may include combustible or noncombustible materials, as demonstrated in those cases where wood framing is protected by layers of fire-rated gypsum wallboard on both sides of the framing. Fire-resistance ratings of various assemblies are assigned after the assembly has been subjected to rigorous live-fire testing under controlled laboratory conditions. (See Coffee Break Training 2007-34 "Fire-Resistance Ratings for Structural Building Elements.")

The term assembly applies to a variety of building components that may exist in a building: fire door assemblies, fire wall and penetration assemblies, fire window assemblies, floor/ceiling assemblies, roof assemblies, fire-resistant joint system assemblies, horizontal assemblies, and through-penetration firestop system assemblies are just a few. Whenever the word assembly appears in the codes, remember that it means a combination of materials must be put together in a specific way.


*In some cases, automatic fire sprinkler systems may be installed to substitute for fire-resistant construction.
CCFS new data collection tool stores statistics on fire incidents on US Campuses.

The CCFS data collection tool was launched in response to the need for more accurate statistics on the fire incidents occurring on US campuses. The tool, free to use for educational institutions, allows campuses and local fire departments responding to Campus incidents, to input incident data, create reports to analyze their fire problem and tailor their public education and awareness campaigns to their specific needs.

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This project was funded by the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant program of the Department of Homeland Security, and was showcased as part of the 2008-09 FireWise Campus training program.
Our Sponsors

The Center is supported through the generosity of the organizations listed here. Each organization has demonstrated a commitment to supporting the cause of campus fire safety and the free exchange of information to support the many professionals dedicated to protecting our nation’s colleges and universities.

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