

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY FACT SHEET

Between January, 2000. and December 15, 2006, the Center has identified 94 campus-related fire fatalities that include students, parents, children and other occupants in student housing. Since these fires are identified by scanning the wire services, and not all fires are identified as student-related, it is believed that the actual number is higher.

Location of fatal fires		Common threads in a number of fatal fires	
Off-campus	78%	• Lack of automatic fire sprinkler systems	
On-campus (residence halls)	11%	• Missing or disabled smoke alarms	
Fraternities and sororities	11%	• Careless disposal of smoking materials	
Academic	1%	• Alcohol consumption	

Clearly, the problem lies in the off-campus occupancies where approximately 2/3 of the students in the nation live. There are approximately 17,000,000 students enrolled in higher education in the Fall of 2006 in over 4,100 two- and four-year schools.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The fatalities identified by the Center have occurred in the following states:

Ohio	12	Mississippi	3	Missouri	2
North Carolina	9	Nebraska	3	District of Columbia	1
Indiana	7	New Jersey	3	Iowa	1
Pennsylvania	7	New York	3	Louisiana	1
Kansas	5	Virginia	3	Michigan	1
California	4	West Virginia	3	Oklahoma	1
Illinois	4	Alaska	2	Oregon	1
Texas	4	Georgia	2	Rhode Island	1
Massachusetts	3	Kentucky	2	Tennessee	1
Minnesota	3	Maryland	2		

FATAL FIRES ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007

University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	1 killed in an off-campus fire
Nebraska Wesleyan University	Lincoln, Nebraska	1 killed in a fraternity fire
University of Missouri – St. Louis	St. Louis, Missouri	1 killed in a fraternity fire
University of Nebraska – Lincoln	Lincoln, Nebraska	2 killed in an off-campus fire

SOLUTIONS

A four-pronged approach is needed to address the issues of fires, both on- and off-campus.

Prevent by educating students, parents and administrators about fire-safe behavior and how to select fire-safe housing.	Detect the fire quickly to provide the early warning needed to alert the occupants and to notify the fire department.	Contain the spread of smoke and fire to as limited an area as possible to minimize the danger to the occupants.	Suppress the fire - early through automatic fire sprinklers which stop the production of smoke and will save lives and property.
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This is an opportunity to reduce not only the current loss of life and property from fire on campuses, but also to dramatically change the impact of fire on society by educating students before they move on and become the decision-makers of tomorrow.

By educating today's students about fire-safe actions as well as providing them with a fire-safe environment while they are in school, they will then be more aware of the dangers from fire after they graduate.

This long-term approach to reducing fires through education and awareness will have a significant impact on reducing the over 3,900 lives lost to fire and \$12.3 billion property loss that the United States sees every year.

Through strong, aggressive efforts in fire safety on our nation's campuses we have the opportunity to make the change, now and for the future.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION 109TH CONGRESS

H. Res 295 Campus Fire Safety Month

This was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in September, 2006 proclaiming September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

At the Center's urging, thirty-one states issued proclamations in 2006 recognizing September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

Alabama	Kentucky	Nebraska	Rhode Island
Alaska	Louisiana	New Jersey	South Carolina
Colorado	Maine	New Mexico	Texas
Connecticut	Maryland	New York	Utah
Hawaii	Massachusetts	North Carolina	Vermont
Illinois	Michigan	Oklahoma	Virginia
Indiana	Mississippi	Oregon	Wisconsin
Kansas	Missouri	Pennsylvania	

HR 2637 and S 2493 Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act Passed in the House on 3/30/06. Cosponsors-4 Senate

This legislation will have schools provide existing information about fire safety on their campuses to the US Department of Education.

HR 128 College Fire Prevention Act

Cosponsors – 101 House This legislation calls for \$100,000,000 per year for five years in matching funds for the installation of automatic fire sprinklers or other fire suppression or prevention technologies.

HR 1131 and S 512 Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act *Cosponsors- 163 House, 15 Senate* This legislation will reduce the depreciation schedule on the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system from 27 years to five years, promoting the installation of these life-saving systems.

The Center for Campus Fire Safety is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving fire safety on our nation's campuses through education and advocacy and is a leader in campus fire safety. Its operations are guided by a Board of Directors and an Advisory Circle made up of dedicated professionals and advocates from across the nation. The Center provides information and resources free to the public through its website at www.campusfire.org.

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