

It does happen

Fire claims the lives of thousands of people each year. Statistics indicate that an average of 1,800 fires occur in residence halls and off campus housing each year.

Fires have claimed lives at local New York colleges and universities:

- 1998: SUNY Geneseo (off campus)– one death
- 2000: Alfred University (off campus) – one death
- 2000: New York University– one death
- 2000: Binghamton University (off campus)- one death

Other SUNY fires with no fatalities:

- 2007: SUNY Stony Brook
- 2006: SUNY Cortland (off campus)



Clock Tower Fire, downtown Cortland in 2006

SUNY Cortland Residence Halls

All SUNY Cortland residence halls and apartments are equipped with fire alarm systems that detect smoke and ring in to our University Police Emergency System. These systems include sprinklers and/or a fire suppression system that will activate in the case of a fire. Additional information on fire safety is available on pages 13-15 of the Campus Security and Fire Safety Report available by visiting the following link: <http://www2.cortland.edu/offices/university-police-department/reports>

For questions or concerns related to your fire safety, contact:

Residence Life and Housing..... 607-753-4724

University Police 607-753-2111

Your residence hall director

Your RA

Fire Safety:

What you need to know to stay safe



Prevention is key to fire safety

Follow these helpful guidelines to ensure you and your community members are safe:

- Do not burn candles, incense, or anything with an open flame inside the residence hall
- SUNY Cortland is tobacco free; do not smoke in the residence halls or on campus
- Hot plates, George Foreman grills, or any other cooking appliances are not allowed in the residence halls
- If using a residence hall kitchenette, never leave cooking or microwaving food unattended
- Do not hang tapestries or posters from the ceiling or on the walls
- Do not run electrical cords or cables under your rug– it can wear away the protective coating and start a fire
- Do not overload your surge protector and do not use frayed and cracked cords
- Take arson seriously– it is the number one cause of residence hall fires; if you know someone who is thinking of setting a fire, notify a staff member immediately
- Never pull a fire alarm as a prank
- Do not use any lamp that has any plastic on the shade– the plastic can heat up and melt, causing a fire
- Be careful when consuming alcohol– half of all adults who die in residential fires have high blood alcohol levels

In case of a fire or fire alarm activation

- Assume all fire alarms are real fires– never ignore an alarm
- Stay calm and evacuate the residence hall– know at least two ways to exit your hall from your room
- Warn others and wake up your roommate; use the pull station if you see a fire but the alarm is not ringing
- If the hallway is smoky, crawl on the floor
- Do not use an elevator
- Once you are outside report to your hall's designated gathering area
- Do not reenter the building until you are told to do so by a residence hall staff member, university police officer, or the fire department
- If you have any questions regarding fires and emergencies, talk to your RA or RHD



Fire at a SUNY Oneonta residence hall, 2013

We conduct three safety checks/year

For the safety of you and your community, we check to ensure that:

- All electrical equipment is plugged into approved surge protectors
- Nothing is blocking the exits from the room (doors and windows)
- Nothing is hindering smoke detectors and heat sensors from working properly
- There are no illegal appliances or candles present (toasters, microwaves, plastic shaded lamps, George Foreman grills, etc.)
- Nothing is hanging on or around the sprinkler heads



A lamp that was found in a residence hall room during a safety inspection.