

## **West Virginia University**

### **Fire Safety Report**

#### **2009 – 2010 Campus Fire Safety Annual Compliance Report**

##### **Overview:**

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) became law in August 2008, requiring all United States academic institutions to produce an annual fire safety report outlining the fire safety practices, standards, and all fire related on-campus housing statistics. The following public disclosure report details all information required by this law as it relates to West Virginia University.

##### **General Statement:**

West Virginia University is committed to providing a fire safe environment for its faculty, staff, students, and visitors and to protecting the property through an effective fire prevention, protection and response program. All WVU residence halls have approved fire alarm, and fire suppression sprinkler systems that are inspected and tested annually per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The fire alarm and suppression systems are electronically monitored 24 hours/day, seven days/week and notify the 911 system automatically upon actuation.

##### **Training:**

WVU Residence Hall Coordinators, Faculty Leaders and Fraternities receive comprehensive hands on fire safety training at the beginning each academic year by Environmental Health and Safety and the Morgantown Fire Department. Additionally, each group receives training that covers emergency and evacuation procedures for each residence hall and fraternity. Emergency evacuation maps are posted on each floor and in each student room to direct residents to approved exits. Resident Assistants conduct periodic floor meetings and discuss fire safety evacuation procedures. Additional training is conducted upon request.

##### **Mandatory Fire Drills:**

Fire Drills are conducted during each academic year for each residence hall and fraternity. This activity is initiated by the Resident Hall Coordinator and supervised by Environmental Health and Safety and the Morgantown Fire Department.

**Fire Prevention Policies:**

It is the policy of WVU to provide a fire safe environment. WVU's goal is to recognize hazardous conditions and take appropriate action before such conditions result in a fire. This is accomplished by conducting annual safety inspections of all university buildings with the State Board of Risk Management, Environmental Health and Safety and the Morgantown Fire Department.

Fire Investigations are coordinated by Environmental Health and Safety and conducted in conjunction with the WV State Fire Marshal, Morgantown Fire Department and the State Board of Risk and Insurance Management. Violations are identified and corrective action is addressed.

To minimize the potential fire fires, West Virginia University has specific policies and procedures that students are required to follow. Noncompliance with these measures will be considered a student conduct/disciplinary matter.

**The following items are prohibited:**

- Toasters
- Electric ovens
- Waffle irons
- Sandwich makers
- Crock pots
- Live trees – if bulb is not attached – are prohibited
- Flammable or Combustible materials
- Portable heaters
- Electric grills
- Any appliance with an open flame heating element
- Candles
- Incense
- Microwave ovens (unless approved by the University)
- Electric and kerosene heaters
- Extension cords or multi-receptacle outlets (UL listed power strips with surge protectors are permitted)
- Gasoline, lighter fluid, or any combustible or flammable material
- Halogen lamps

## **Decorations**

Students who choose to decorate their room must adhere to the following rules:

- Use electrical decorations that are UL approved only;
- Do not use lights on metallic trees;
- Use decorations made from flame-retardant materials only;
- Do not place decorations on light fixtures, sprinklers, smoke detectors, etc.;
- Do not hang tapestries or other decorations from ceiling or doorway;
- Do not use live pine, extension cords, candles (oil or wax-based), candle warmers, or incense;
- Do not use live Christmas trees;
- Do not hang items outside the window.

## **Room Safety**

- Use or possession of open flame (i.e., burning candles, burning incense) or open element appliances, including toasters, hot plates, and hot pot's in residence hall rooms or other unauthorized areas is not permitted.
- Cooking in residence hall rooms or other unauthorized areas is prohibited.
- Residents and guests may not devise any unsafe situation in which a member of the residence hall community can be injured.

## **Smoking**

- Smoking is not permitted in residence halls or designated smoke-free areas. This includes but is not limited to residence halls rooms, common areas, bathrooms, sidewalks, patios, stairways, and any other walkway that directly leads to a building entrance.

## **Explosive Devices**

- A student may not make, possess, or threaten to make or use a bomb, explosive incendiary device or fireworks.
- If found responsible for such a violation, the student will be removed from University Housing

## **Fraternities**

- All WVU owned and managed Fraternities adhere to the policies mentioned above.
- All Fraternities, with the exception of Sigma Alpha Mu, 709 N. High St., have commercial kitchens and have an outside vendor cooking for the residents. The residents are not permitted access to these areas for personal cooking. All of these kitchens are inspected annually by the Morgantown Fire Marshal to ensure they meet all current fire safety standards.

## **Fire Log**

- WVU maintains an incident fire log, including the nature, date, time, and general location of each fire in our residence halls. WVU will add fraternities to the data system beginning October 2010.
- The University's fire incident log will be posted on WVU Environmental Health and Safety and University Police website for public viewing.

## **Plans for future improvements in fire safety**

- WVU will provide future improvements as needed.