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Fire safety tips for college students

By BCT Staff · 9 hrs ago

It's August, do you know where your fire escapes are? Does your college dorm have fire sprinklers? Students should know at least two ways to escape if a fire breaks out.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that fires in college dormitories, Greek housing, and barracks have been steadily increasing in frequency, and The Center for Campus Fire Safety documented 91 fatal fires claiming 128 victims since 2000.

The New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board advises parents and students to find out if their student's housing has fire sprinklers. "Sprinklers are critical because they can quickly suppress a fire, reduce property damage and give people more time to exit the building. In fact, having a fire sprinkler can reduce the chance of fire fatality by 85 percent."

Colleges have fire safety protocols for on-campus housing, but most students don't spend 24 hours a day in their dorm room.

The NJFASB advises that students survey their environment and find two ways out of every room. That is the first thing every student should do when they enter a new environment, whether it is a dorm, apartment, fraternity/sorority house, apartment or even a classroom building. Every second counts when a fire breaks out. Knowing how to escape ahead of time could save not only your life, but the lives of others.

Fire safety tips offered by the NFPA and the Center for Campus Fire Safety are:

- Check for working fire alarms in every bedroom and outside sleeping areas on every floor, and test them monthly.
- When the smoke alarm or fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking; cook only when you are alert.
- Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a barbecue grill, fire pit or chimenea.
- Check dorm/campus rules before using electrical appliances in your room.

The NJFSAB hosts free fire sprinkler burn trailer demonstrations for colleges and local communities, to increase awareness of fire safety issues and the impact sprinklers can have on saving lives and property. The burn trailer illustrates how quickly sprinklers work in real-time when exposed to flames, and how effective sprinklers are in suppressing fires.

For more information about burn trailer demonstrations contact NJFSAB at 866-226-6006 or go to njfsab.org

The NJFSAB is a cooperative partnership advocating installation and proper care of fire sprinkler systems. Headquartered in Hamilton, it is comprised of unionized workers, local leaders, code officials, contractors and businesses who represent fire sprinkler construction, production, distribution and installation.

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