# Campus Fire Watch

## What The Reality Is...

**The 2006-2007 year was the most fatal one on record. During this period of time, there have been 20 fire-related campus deaths.**

BELCHERTOWN, Mass., September 4, 2007 — A study released that was conducted by the People's Burn Foundation of Indiana and Campus Firewatch outlines where students are lacking when it comes to life-saving information.

These findings prove what many campus fire safety officials have known through their personal experiences:

- Students have a demonstrated lack of knowledge about burn and fire safety, including information as basic as knowing what to do if their room should catch on fire
- Once they became aware of this knowledge gap, they were very interested in learning how to close this gap with life-saving information
- Delivering the information is a challenge because today's students are flooded with advertising messages.
- Student apathy is prevalent. Many are unaware that fire is a risk or threat in the environment.
- Evacuation efforts are hindered since fire alarms are often ignored.
- Misuse of cooking appliances, overloaded electrical circuits and extension cords increase the risk of fires.

According to an article from the Center for Disease control, most victims of fires die from smoke or toxic gases and not from burns, smoking is the leading cause of fire-related deaths, and cooking is the primary cause of residential fires. There has already been one fatality in the 2007-2008 school year.

www.campus-firewatch.com
& www.revolutionhealth.com

| Campus-related fire fatalities from January 2000 to present | | |
|---|---|---|
| Occupancy | Deaths | Percent |
| Off Campus | 92 | 89% |
| Residence Halls | 10 | 9% |
| Greek Housing | 10 | 9% |
| Other | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 113 | |

## What Everyone Needs To Know...

Of course, the best way to practice fire safety is to make sure a fire doesn't break out in the first place. That means you should always be aware of potential hazards in your office or dorm. Start by keeping these tips in mind. Always remember– leave the fire fighting to the professionals!

### Know Where to Go and What to Do

- Always know at least two ways out of your area.
- Know where your group's designated meeting place is.
- Know locations of fire extinguishers and alarm pull stations
- Once the alarm has sounded– get out of the building immediately and STAY out.
- NEVER use an elevator during any fire or fire alarm

### Escape Tips

- Close doors behind you as you escape to slow the spread of fire and smoke.
- If you have to escape through smoke, crawl keeping your head one to two feet above the floor, where the air will be cleanest.
- Test doorknobs and spaces around closed doors with the back of your hand. If the door is warm, try another escape route. If it is cool, open it slowly. Slam the door shut if smoke pours through.

www.befiresmart.com