



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**  
*Commission on Fire Prevention and Control*  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

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For Immediate Release: August 1, 2012

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*State Fire Administrator Offers Campus Fire Safety Tips*

(WINDSOR LOCKS, CT)- Each year college and university students, on- and off-campus, experience hundreds of fire-related emergencies nationwide. There are several specific causes for fires on college campuses, including cooking, intentionally set fires, and open flame. Overall, most college-related fires are due to a general lack of knowledge about fire safety and prevention.

“For most students, the last fire safety training they received was in grade school, but with new independence comes new responsibilities”, said State Fire Administrator Jeffrey Morrissette “It is important that both off-campus and on-campus students understand fire risks and know the preventative measures that could save their lives”.

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection offers the following campus fire safety tips:

**Candles**

- Avoid using lighted candles.
- Do not leave candles unattended.
- Keep candles away from draperies and linens.

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### **Cooking**

- Cook only where it is permitted.
- Keep your cooking area clean and uncluttered.
- If you use electric appliances, don't overload circuits.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

### **Smoking**

- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- Be alert - don't smoke in bed! If you are sleepy or have been drinking, put your cigarette out first.

### **Escape Planning**

- If you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit.
- Before opening a door, feel the door. If it's hot, use your second way out.
- Use the stairs; never use an elevator during a fire.
- If you're trapped, call the fire department and tell them where you are. Seal your door with rags and signal from your window. Open windows slightly at the top and bottom; shut them if smoke rushes in from any direction.
- If you have a disability, alert others of the type of assistance you need to leave the building.