



News Release

Sunrise Fire-Rescue Department

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Thomas DiBernardo, Fire Chief

College Campus Fire-Safety

Don't leave caution behind when going away to school.

(SUNRISE, FL)- Students are often preoccupied with decorating and getting to know their roommates when moving into a new dormitory or apartment at the start of the semester. However, it is important not to let the novelty and excitement overshadow the role of fire safety during this transition.

The National Fire Protection Association advises that when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing, students should check for the following:

- Is the housing fully sprinklered?
- Can you hear the fire alarm from inside your room?
- Are there smoke alarms in each sleeping area and living area? Outside each sleeping area?
- Are the smoke alarms interconnected to all sound together for the best protection?
- What is the building's evacuation plan?

Once living in their new housing, students need to continue basic fire-safety practices:

- Test all smoke alarms monthly.
- Do not remove the alarm batteries or disable it.
- *Practice* the building evacuation plan, or for off-campus housing, an escape plan with two ways out from each room.
- If the smoke or fire alarm sounds, immediately get out and stay out!
- Never leave the kitchen when cooking; do not cook when sleepy or when drowsy from medications or alcohol. Most dorm fires are started by cooking.
- Check your building's rules and with the local fire department before using any electrical appliances in your room, and before using a barbeque grill or fire pit.
- Never smoke in bed or when drowsy. Restrict smoking only in permitted outdoor areas, using sturdy, deep ashtrays.
- If candles are permitted, keep them isolated and never leave them unattended when burning. Be sure to put them out before leaving the room or going to sleep.

"We want students to keep up the same good habits they learned at home and stay safe during the school year," said Sunrise Fire-Rescue Chief Thomas DiBernardo.

For more information and safety tips, visit the City of Sunrise website at www.sunrisefl.gov, 'Like' us on Facebook at Sunrise-Rescue, and follow us on Twitter @SunriseFRD. In the event of an emergency, always dial 9-1-1 immediately.