

# Campus FireZone™

VOLUME 2

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CENTER FOR CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY

Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2008

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## BANNER NEWS

### The Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) receives \$460K grant

**T**he Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) receives \$460K grant to continue its [Firewise Campus Training Program](#) and an On-line nationwide campus fire reporting program...

CCFS recently announced that it has been awarded a \$460,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants program for a two-phase project focusing on campus fire safety.

Part one of the project provides funding for the Center to continue its critically acclaimed Firewise Campus training seminars across the country. These classes afford fire safety professionals a chance to gain an understanding of successful training methodologies for the college

age group, as well as receive tools and resources that they can use to effectively educate students and work further to provide a fire-safe campus environment.

The second aspect of the project will provide a launching point for a nationwide campus fire reporting program and will start a more accurate and defined portrayal of fire as it affects colleges and universities in the United States. As there has yet to be a true study done on these numbers, the Center will pioneer the effort with the support and expertise of several partners with a common mission of fire and life safety on campuses such as the National Fire Protection Association.

Paul D. Martin, Vice President of the Center said: "Through their actions in awarding this grant, it

is clear that our fellow fire safety professionals and national leaders in Washington recognize that campus fire safety is an area of concern and understand the importance and value of investing in it."

It is the Center's goal to help its peers, be they campus fire safety educator, government

official or member of the fire service - to work together and raise the consciousness of college students about fire safe behaviors at a critical point in their lives.

"Firewise Campus training is designed specifically for anyone who has a part in delivering fire safety education to college students. And is in-

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## YOUR

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By Amy Hamel,  
Executive Director

## Congressional Fire Services Institute

The 20th Annual Congressional Fire Services Institute's dinner and seminars was celebrated a week ago in Washington, DC. Vice President of CCFS, Paul D. Martin participated in the Vision 20/20 initiative.

The Vision 20/20 team consisted of a diversified list of nation wide experts working together to develop fire safety strategies that will save lives. Vision 20/20 was held in conjunction with CFSI Fire and Emergency Services Technology Showcase on the National Mall and the meeting with Members of Congress on Capitol Hill.

The Fire and Emergency Services Technology Showcase on the National Mall allowed CCFS to perform outreach to several tourists visiting our nation's capital during the cherry blossoms. Fire and life safety groups such as CCFS, UL, IAAI, IFSTA, NFSA, IAFC, The Home Safety Council and many others shared best practices and time under tents while fire and safety apparatus were admired by civilians and appreciated by their peers, local first responders participated in the



2008 Firefighter Combat Challenge.

"A Generation of Progress" was the theme for the CFSI fundraiser dinner, and as a first-time attendee/ long-time event planner I was completely taken with the logistics and impressive list of Members of Congress who not only support our cause but came to the event and shared their words of encouragement as 2,500 fire and emergency professionals came together to celebrate 20 successful years of CFSI's efforts. Live musical entertainment from Livingston Taylor (yes, the younger brother of James) and the exciting artist Michael Israel closed the evening with a live auction of his creation "Hero" which sold for \$15,000.

Congratulations to Bill Webb, Sean Carroll and Tom Lewis for an amazing event.

CFSI MISSION - "...to educate Members of Congress about fire and life safety issues." ... CFSI is designed to educate members of Congress about the needs and challenges of our nation's fire and emergency services so that the federal government provides the types of training and funding needed by our first responders.

CFSI's motto is simple: "So That First Responders Never Stand Alone." Although you often find yourself alone performing dangerous work, CFSI stands in your place on Capitol Hill working to insure that your actions and needs are being heard by federal legislators.

More info on CFSI

[Visit cfsi.org](http://www.cfsi.org)



Mike Swain, Director of CCFS

## CONTINUED &gt;&gt;&gt; BANNER NEWS FROM CCFS

tended to help them succeed in that undertaking” said Michael Haligan, President of the Center for Campus Fire Safety. “This is the only training program of its kind on a national level, and it provides these officials with invaluable tools to help ensure that students receive the life-saving information that they desperately need.”

Amy Hamel, Executive Director of the Center, said: “In order to best protect America’s college students from the ravages of fire, it is critical to capture the true picture of the occurrence of fire, and this pro-

ject will begin to vividly paint that canvass.”

“In today’s world, statistics and demonstrable data are key components in addressing any issue.” said Martin “Building a simple, web-based means to capture and record this information as it relates to campus related fires will be a tremendously important step.” Working with the Center on the grant will be its powerhouse partner; UL University. UL University is the training division of Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), one of the world’s largest and oldest not-for-profit

product safety testing and certification organizations, and they will be bringing their tremendous expertise in instructional design and development to help evaluate the effectiveness of the training programs.

“Through a balanced approach to fire protection and application of the three E’s—engineering, enforcement and education, America will see senseless and tragic fire deaths and injuries prevented.” said Martin “And that is what the Center is all about.”



By Amy Hamel, Executive Director & Paul D. Martin, Vice President, CCFS.



2005 Launch—At a press conference co-sponsored by the Center for Campus Fire Safety and Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Ohio) were (from left) Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.); Gail Minger, Campus Fire Safety Board of Directors; Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.); Rep. Tubbs Jones; and Ed Comeau, formally of the Center for Campus Fire Safety

CFSM—Campus Fire Safety Month was first proclaimed by CCFS in 2005, and was formalized nationally in 2007 when both the House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate passed resolutions recognizing September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

### The Campus Fire Safety Month Network ... is everyone’s network

We’re building a place where you can discuss what you are doing on Campus, ask questions and more.

We’ll also be announcing key events for this month so ... make this webpage a favorite and check it often!

[www.campusfiresafety.org/CFSM](http://www.campusfiresafety.org/CFSM)

#### How you can help with this very important month?

- 1) Tell us what you are doing on campus, so we can share your ideas and accomplishments with others. It’s simple—just send an email to: [ahamel@campusfiresafety.org](mailto:ahamel@campusfiresafety.org) and tell what you are doing. We’ll post it online and in our members-only area.
- 2) Join our supporter list by completing the simple form on our website.



THE COUNTDOWN IS ON—OCTOBER 28-20, PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND >> [MORE INFO](#)

Additional details will be posted on our website and member area soon!

# CAMPUS FIRE FACTS

Carbon Monoxide killed approximately 250 people in the United States last year. The deadly gas is odorless, colorless and tasteless. You can reduce the chances of injury or death from CO poisoning by taking the following steps:

Inspect fuel-burning appliances at least once each year. Fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, hot water heaters and stoves require yearly maintenance. Over time, components can become damaged or deteriorate. A qualified technician can identify and repair problems with your fuel-burning appliances.

Be alert to the danger signs that signal a CO problem: streaks of carbon or soot around the service door of your fuel-burning appliances; the

absence of a draft in your chimney; excessive rusting on flue pipes or appliance jackets; moisture collecting on the windows and walls of furnace rooms; fallen soot from the fireplace; small amounts of water leaking from the base of the chimney, vent or flue pipe; damaged or discolored bricks at the top of your chimney and rust on the portion of the vent pipe visible from outside your home.

Be aware that CO poisoning may be the cause of flu-like symptoms such as headaches, tightness of chest, dizziness, fatigue, confusion and breathing difficulties. Because CO poisoning often causes a victim's blood pressure to rise, the victim's skin may take on a pink or red cast.

Install a UL Listed CO detector outside sleeping areas. A UL Listed CO detec-

tor will sound an alarm before dangerous levels of CO accumulate. CO indicator cards and other devices are also intended to detect elevated levels of CO, but most are not equipped with an audible alarm, and cannot wake you at night, when most CO poisonings occur.

Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before installing a CO detector. Do not place the detector within five feet of household chemicals. If your detector is wired directly into your home's electrical system, you should test it monthly. If your unit operates off of a battery, test the detector weekly and replace the battery at least once a year.

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## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Michael Halligan, President CCFS

Last week three students were lost in an off campus fire in Wisconsin. The Center for Campus Fire Safety has those students and the rest of the community and their families in our thoughts. While we are all saddened by this loss, it is these events that remind us of why it is important to go out on campus and into the off campus community and talk about fire prevention with all students and community leaders.

From this tragedy, we can take a message of preparedness back to our campus. Are we ready for a similar event on campus? Have we done all the preplanning to ensure that in the event we experience a tragedy like this the campus will respond swiftly and appropriately? Who are the key staff and administrators needing to be mobilized in the first hours and what are their roles and responsibilities? Have staff and administrators trained and exercised their response?

Off campus fires still require a response from campus. Can displaced students be assisted by on campus resources? Can the campus provide counseling and other student health services to impacted students? What are activities or services the campus can't provide?

The list of questions is long. The time to create and talk about that list is now while you are not in a response mode. Learn from this tragic event and look at how your campus would respond. The Center for Campus Fire Safety has assisted communities after an event to help look at ways to prevent these types of tragedies from happening again we are also here as a resource to help your campus or community to better prepare to respond to this type of event. Call us if you would like assistance facilitating a discussion about this hard topic on your campus. .... [mhalligan@campufiresafety.org](mailto:mhalligan@campufiresafety.org)

## Horizontal and Vertical Sliding and Rolling Fire Doors

By Pablo Davis

An often overlooked yet a very important component of a fire rated assembly is the sliding or rolling fire door found in a wide variety of occupancies.



The doors are designed to separate fire areas within a building or protect the means of egress in the event of a fire, thereby limiting its spread.

Sliding fire doors are typically large steel panels hung by rollers on an inclined rail or track. They are common in large industrial occupancies, athletic field houses and gymnasiums, theaters and storage warehouses. Roll down fire doors are usually heavy corrugated metal sections hinged together and running on a track similar to a garage door. They are found in service windows, reception areas, separating occupancies within a building and protecting the means of egress from specific hazards such as elevator shaft ways or loading areas. Both types of doors are gravity operated and their speed is controlled by counterweights. Actuation of these doors is achieved by fusible links located on either side of the door or by tying the release mechanism to an approved detection system.



Sliding and rolling fire doors are usually kept in the open position and are only closed in the event of a fire. Because of this they are often hidden or concealed in ceilings, soffits or walls and building occupants are unaware of their existence and purpose. It is important that furnishings, decorations and materials are not placed or stored in the doors' path of travel, thereby impeding its closure upon activation and rendering it useless. A common example of this can be found in reception areas of dorms or health clinics where the entrance lobby (the means of egress) and the receptionist desk/RA office are separated by a service counter or window. Telephones, pen holders and flower vases are common items found blocking the roll down fire door that protects the opening.

A common impairment to a fire door's operation is damage to or modification of the fusible link, the most common being painting of the link and chain during remodeling or redecorating. It is important that these doors be kept free of obstructions and that their activation mechanisms be maintained in good working order and repair.

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## Preparing for Civil Disturbances on Campus ...

By Michael J. Swain

It has become more common for celebrations on campuses to become civil disturbances in the last several years. Whether it is a campus team or a local professional sports teams it has become more and more common for celebrations to get out of hand. When a local team loses an important game it can also become a riot in no time. Some events may not be sports related but may be seasonal.

Many campuses and local communities feel it is a strictly police matter when planning for a celebration or potential civil disturbances. Planning for such an event is a community problem and can be solved by many agencies planning and cooperating. In New England we have had had a lot of practice planning for the sports related issues over the last couple of years. Unfortunately several celebrations have turned ugly with tragic results.

When planning for an event on campus, cooperation is the key. You must work with Campus police, local police and fire departments, and numerous campus departments. Student Affairs, Housing Services, Physical Plant, Campus Administration, and even Dining Services must be included to help prevent celebrations from going bad.

In the planning stages everybody plays a role. The police departments will have their plans all set and have trained on those plans. Police Departments will also have mutual aid agreements in place with local communities.

Fire Departments will work with the police departments to ensure safe scenes for the fire and EMS crews to respond to. Student Affairs Offices and Campus Administrators can get the word out before hand of what actions will not be tolerated and what the consequences will be for violators. Resident Life staff may be able to get feedback on what is planned for the celebration. Physical Plant crews can make sure all combustible materials such as trash is picked up to limit what can be burned or thrown. In northern states snow may have to be removed as much as possible to prevent throwing of snowballs. Dining Services may close dining halls early to prevent spillover problems. Housing Services must take steps to ensure the safety of the dorm residents in the buildings and the residents that cannot get home due to a large disturbance. A temporary shelter may have to be set-up to give students that can't get safely back to their dorms a safe haven to wait out the disturbance. The key no matter how many departments are involved is cooperation and communication. All departments have a stake in what occurs and what the outcome may be. Planning ahead is the key.

Planning for events for off campus should include many of the same campus departments working with local authorities. Again communication and cooperation is the key to planning and success, Campuses have a responsibility to assist and support the local communities.



Unfortunately despite all the planning things may go bad. However with communication, cooperation, and planning it may prevent things from getting completely out of hand. Because it is a community issue the community benefits from everybody working together.

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*Michael Swain is on the Board of Directors for CCFS and is the Campus Fire Prevention Officer at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and has been working in Fire Prevention at the University for over 19 years. Michael has been a member of the NFPA Education Section since 1988, and is Vice President of the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts. Michael has attended many fire prevention and public fire education classes at the National Fire Academy.*

### Email Us!

Take a minute to let us know what you think of our newsletter and how we can improve it. Email us at:

[newsletter@campusfiresafety.org](mailto:newsletter@campusfiresafety.org)



## TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

### Detection & Protection only work ... if they work, by John McSheffrey, Mija Inc.

**E**ach day, all across the country fire detection and protection components are successfully used or activated saving countless lives and limiting property damage. Unfortunately the reality is, sometimes components do not engage when called upon; which is why the requirement for balanced protection critical and facility managers must ensure that they comply with their responsibilities spelled out in the fire codes.

Four fires at three separate academic institutions within the first three months of 2008 emphasize the importance of balance and proper maintenance.

The first fire occurred at Indiana State's Blumberg Dorm on January 27th resulting in the closing of the dorm for the rest of the academic year. The fire on the 11th floor of a high-rise dorm, started by an unattended candle, injured three. Initial news reports quoted students saying that they tried to use the fire extinguishers but they were not working (later clarified to be a shutoff standpipe system).

The next two fires were both in Humes Hall at the University of Tennessee, the first one occurring within hours of the ISU fire. That fire and the other one less than 24 hours later, both suspicious in nature, were safely extinguished by staff members using the fire extinguishers in the hall.

Two schools, two dramatically different results; one had properly working and accessible fire protection while the other had protection that was apparently not in operating condition. Even though the full details of these fires are not available, the moral of the stories is abundantly clear: fire protection & detection components only work if they work... and if applicable, accessible.

Certain fire protection & detection components are deemed "mandatory" by building & fire codes for one simple reason; they are proven tools in a balanced fire protection program. Yet, it's not enough for building owners to just abide by the codes with regards to installation and outside servicing; in some instances, codes mandate building owners are responsible for inspecting and documenting certain aspects of the life safety program ; for example fire extinguishers.

NFPA-10, the Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers,

states that all fire extinguishers must be inspected every 30-days and all inspections must also be documented. The responsibility of the monthly physical inspections falls squarely on the shoulders of the owner or occupant of a property and in cases where extinguishers have not been inspected and documented and there is a fire; owners and occupants have been found liable. Location, pressure and obstruction are the key elements of the mandatory inspections; complete details can be found in the 2007 edition of NFPA-10.

Regarding extinguisher inspections, there is a code recognized technology available that would eliminate the need the 30-day physical inspection & documentation process. The technology to electronically monitor fire extinguishers reduces maintenance requirements, electronically stores documentation and ensures that extinguishers are ready and accessible for use and if used prove that they were in working order prior to use. 24/7 supervision simply makes more sense in terms of strengthening fire safety and reducing labor requirements and the serious risk of liability.

The fourth fire happened at North Plymouth High School in Plymouth Massachusetts and emphatically highlights the importance of balance in when a fire broke out backstage at a school sponsored pre-prom fashion show. The following was reported in the Old Colony Memorial on March 21st 2008 "When the fire was noticed, one student grabbed a fire extinguisher while another pulled the fire alarm on the wall outside the home economics room. Students quickly put out the fire but the hard-wired alarm did not sound. A teacher went into the auditorium and told everyone to evacuate the building while someone used a cell phone to call firefighters." It was the alarm system failed while the extinguisher was able to put out the fire; an extinguisher that was accessible and in proper working order.

Take a moment to review the responsibilities required to ensure your facility is compliant. Whether it's conducting the fire extinguisher monthlies or ensuring pull stations and egresses remain unobstructed, if a fire happens you want to be sure that you've met the necessary code requirements to minimize any impact the fire has on the campus and student body. >>> NEXT PAGE

Balance, due diligence and the proper use of technology can go a long way in making your job easier and your campus a whole lot safer.

*John McSheffrey is the Vice President of Business Development for Mija Inc., a Massachusetts based manufacturer that has been designing and producing pressure gauges for over 33 years. Their products can be found*

*in schools and universities across the United States. Mija produces the en-Gauge electronic monitoring system for fire extinguishers and other safety devices.*



People Helping People Build a Safer World™

## “Building Safety...

Where You Live, Work and Play”

*Building Safety Week 2008*

ensuring a basic level of safety is provided and maintained in a building.

The opening section of the International Fire Code makes a powerful and

America will celebrate Building Safety Week from May 5 through 11. The theme is “Building Safety: Where You Live, Work and Play.”

The students, faculty and staff on America’s colleges and universities live, study, work and play in buildings of all shapes, sizes and configurations; from high-rise residence halls, complex research laboratories and major athletic stadiums, to small apartments, classrooms and private offices. The common link in all these buildings is the vital need for them to be safe for all who occupy them.

Building Safety Week, sponsored by the International Code Council Foundation has been celebrated each year since 1980, Building Safety Week promotes the use, enforcement, and understanding of building safety and fire prevention codes to protect lives and property.

The importance of regulating and enforcing building and fire codes is often overlooked until a catastrophic tragedy occurs, evidenced painfully, all too often in America. Each year, approximately 4000 people lose their lives to the ravages of fire in the United States, more than 200 of them New Yorkers.

Many of these deaths might have been preventable though consistent and proper application of building and fire codes. Whether the result of strong code enforcement or by increased voluntary compliance gained through public safety education and awareness, following the requirements in building and fire codes goes a long way toward

inarguable sentiment when it states “The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises.”

Safe and proper construction and use of buildings is rarely on your mind when you enter a home or building. Fortunately, there are hard working professional staff on every campus who think about building safety and fire prevention every day and working diligently to keep the campus population safe. Each day these dedicated individuals work tirelessly to educate and remind others of the critical need to remember to abide by the codes.

**Please join The Center for Campus Fire Safety in recognizing Building Safety Week, May 5th - 11th, 2008 and recommit yourself to exercising personal responsibility to build, maintain and use buildings safely.**

Take a few minutes to browse [www.campusfiresafety.org](http://www.campusfiresafety.org). You will find plenty of helpful fire safety tips, ideas and materials. And while you are surfing, stop over to visit our friends at the International Codes Council, their website, [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org), contains a large collection of information about building and fire codes as well as much more.



## Fire and Life Safety Officer

[Apply for this job online](#)

**Job Number:** 260f, **Closing Date:** Open until filled, **First Posted:** 03/28/2008

**Department:** Environmental Health and Safety  
**Description:** The Fire and Life Safety Officer for the Environmental Health and Safety department will be responsible for providing a safe environment for the UMass Boston community through the development, implementation and administration of a campus-wide fire protection and prevention program as well as ensuring life safety from physical hazards and construction. >>> [more online](#)

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree plus 5-7 years experience in fire safety management, fire safety inspection, and hazardous material handling is required. The position requires a thorough understanding and application of fire and life safety programs including working knowledge of federal, state and local fire safety regulations, fire protection engineering and equipment principals, electrical systems, inspection and education practices related to fire and life safety. >>> [more online](#)

**Annual Salary:** \$55,600 to \$77,842 **Hiring Range:** \$55,600 to \$66,721 **Normal Hiring Range:** \$55,600 to \$61,161 **Professional Staff.** Grade level 33. State Funded. Benefited.

**Reference Job Number:** 260f. Send résumé, cover letter and three references to the Office of Human Resources, Quinn Admin. Bldg., 3rd Floor. >>> [more online.](#)

## Director of Office for Capital Facilities

The State University of New York (SUNY) System Administration, located in Albany, New York, seeks a Director to re-establish and manage the SUNY Office for Capital Facilities. The Director will be responsible for hiring and management of staff and oversight of the Office for Capital Facilities.

**Responsibilities include** campus managed construction projects, building code compliance, reporting on construction permits and certificates of occupancy issued by campuses, environmental health and safety, and the SUNY energy procurement program. SUNY is the largest comprehensive public university system in the nation, consisting of more than 420,000 students on 64 campuses, including 30 state-operated campuses, 4 statutory colleges, and 30 community colleges. For a detailed position description, please visit [www.suny.edu/SUPEmployment](http://www.suny.edu/SUPEmployment).

**Qualifications:** A bachelor's degree and minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible experience in the management of facilities and capital operations. Experience in the higher education and an advanced degree are desirable. Strong management and written and verbal communications skills are essential.

**Interested candidate** may apply online or send a letter of application and resume to: Search Chair for Director of Office for

Capital Facilities, State University of New York System Administration, Office of Human Resources, SUNY Plaza, Room N-439, Albany, New York 12246. Electronic submissions preferred. State University of New York is an EEO/AA employer. Women, minority persons, disabled workers and/or Vietnam or other protected veterans are encouraged to apply.

## Fire and Life Safety Officer

The Fire and Life Safety Officer for the Environmental Health and Safety department will be responsible for providing a safe environment for the UMass Boston community through the development, implementation and administration of a campus-wide fire protection and prevention program as well as ensuring life safety from physical hazards and construction. S/he will: manage all campus-wide fire and safety programs; address and mitigate fire and safety risks and threats as well as provide training, campus activity reviews and compliance monitoring; oversee safety system inspections; monitor program development; provide educational programs and training; serve as the university liaison with State and local fire professionals; inform and advise on fire suppression systems, fire alarms and emergency lighting equipment as well as oversight of vendor maintenance for portable fire suppression; be responsible for developing a system and procedure for carrying out routine inspections and maintenance of fire suppression systems and campus-wide emergency alarms and lighting systems and ensure university-wide compliance with procedures; oversee the installation and inspection of fire resistant construction materials in compliance with OSHA regulations and applicable federal, state and local laws; is responsible for the coordination and management of various Life Safety programs; develop, present and disseminate educational programs for public safety staff, lab faculty/students, security staff, kitchen staff, and other university community members as necessary; collaborate with Facilities on ensuring the inspections of assembly areas, stairwells, and exit pathways to check for adequate illumination, automatic fire doors, panic hardware, clear stairwell landings, corridors and exit paths as well as exit signs; review and make safety recommendations for all campus activities; and keep accurate records of all safety equipment inspections, regular and emergency maintenance, and complaints/suggestions for safety improvements.

**Bachelor's degree plus 5-7 years** experience in fire safety management, fire safety inspection, and hazardous material handling is required. The position requires a thorough understanding and application of fire and life safety programs including working knowledge of federal, state and local fire safety regulations, fire protection engineering and equipment principals, electrical systems, inspection and education practices related to fire and life safety. Working knowledge of codes and standards pertaining to new construction and capital improvements. Prior work experience in an academic, research or medical facility desirable. Preferred credentials include Certified Fire Protection Specialist, Certified Fire Inspector and/or Certified Safety Professional or other certification in the area of fire loss prevention or other equivalent designations.

**Send resume,** cover letter and three references to [jobs@umb.edu](mailto:jobs@umb.edu) (search 260f) or mail to Human Resources, Search 260f, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125.



## “The Campus Fire News Wire “

By Randall Hormann, Founding Editor

“The Campus Fire News Wire” ...This page is only a Snapshot of what is happening on college campuses around the country. What you’re reading now is a brief overview of campus fire related news stories. If you would like to see the entire news article or read dozens more fire and safety articles not published in this section, please visit: [CampusFire-Safety.com](http://CampusFire-Safety.com) and click on: “News Wire”.

**February 29, 2008**

**Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD**

An overheated electrical cord under a bed is the cause of a campus dormitory fire. The fire, which was ruled accidental, caused \$10,000 in damage.

**March 6, 2008**

**Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY**

Six members of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity are homeless after their house caught fire. The house was destroyed.

**March 7, 2008**

**University of California, Davis, CA**

A freshman has been arrested after authorities discovered bomb making materials in his dorm room.

**March 8, 2008**

**Ashland University, Ashland, OH**

A fire destroys one room in an all female dormitory.

**March 11, 2008**

**The George Washington University, Washington, DC**

A dormitory was evacuated after insulation in a boiler room caught fire. There was substantial smoke in the building; however, no injuries occurred.

**March 14, 2008**

**The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA**

A fire hit the Chi Omega sorority house during break. Only one student was in the house during the fire. No injuries or major damage was reported.

**March 21, 2008**

**University of Texas, Dallas, Dallas, TX**

Eight units are damaged in an off-campus apartment fire. The fire department is still investigation how the fire began.

**March 24, 2008**

**New York University, New York, NY**

An electrical fire in a dormitory elevator resulted in the evacuation of the 14-story dormitory. No injuries were reported.



Become a member of CCFS— [www.campusfiresafety.org/members](http://www.campusfiresafety.org/members)

**Regular Members ...** if you have responsibility for fire safety programs, policy and/or practices on a college or university, or you are in the Fire service or you are a governmental person who has an interest in, or responsibility for, fire safety programs on or with a college or university ... this is a great place to make a difference, network with peers and hold an elective office within CCFS.

**Affiliate Members ...** if you are a person or representing a business, corporation or organization/association interested in the affairs of the CCFS but who are not eligible for a Regular or Associate membership ... this is a great place to show your interest and showcase your company’s product or service to colleges and universities.



People Helping People Build a Safer World™



## CODE CORNER

### ABOUT CODE CORNER

CCFS would like to remind you to check with your local "Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)" for questions and opinions concerning your local Fire and Building Codes. The information contained in this article is supplied as a courtesy by the International Code Council (ICC) and is based on the International Fire and Building Codes and their respective commentaries. Your local codes or ordinances may vary.

Submitted by **Randall Hormann, Founding Editor**

# Chapter 10

## Means of Egress

### SECTION 1004 - OCCUPANT LOAD

**1004.1** Design occupant load. In determining means of egress requirements, the number of occupants for whom means of egress facilities shall be provided shall be established by the largest number computed in accordance with Sections 1004.1.1 through 1004.1.3.

The design occupant load is the number of people that are intended to occupy a building, or portion thereof, at any one time; consequently, the number for which the means of egress is to be designed. It is the largest number derived by the application of Sections 1004.1 through 1004.1.3. There is a limit to the density of occupants permitted in an area to enable a reasonable amount of freedom of movement (see Section 1004.2). The design occupant load is also utilized to determine the required plumbing fixture count (see the commentary to Chapter 29 of the IBC).

**1004.1.1** Actual number. The actual number of occupants for whom each

occupied space, floor or building is designed.

□The number of occupants that will occupy a space is the actual number and is only limited by Section 1004.2. If the construction documents indicate that the actual occupant load of a space exceeds that determined by Sections 1004.1.2 and 1004.1.3, then the actual number is to be used as the design occupant load of that space. Where the actual number is less than the occupant load determined in accordance with Section 1004.1.2 or 1004.1.3, the largest number must be used in the egress design. For example, if a proposed conference room has a calculated occupant load of 55—using 15 net square (1.4 m<sup>2</sup>) feet per person for assembly without fixed seats, un-concentrated tables and chairs (see Table 1004.1.2)—but the owner indicates that the actual number of occupants will not exceed 25, the design occupant load of the room is 55. Therefore, in accordance with Table 1014.1, at least two means of egress must be provided from the conference room. Conversely, if the actual occupant load planned for is

65, the design occupant load is then 65.

**1004.1.2** Number by Table 1004.1.2. The number of occupants computed at the rate of one occupant per unit of

area as prescribed in Table 1004.1.2.

**1004.2** Increased occupant load. The occupant load permitted in any building or portion thereof is permitted to be increased from that number established for the occupancies in Table 1004.1.2 provided that all other requirements of the code are also met based on such modified number and the occupant load shall not exceed one occupant per 5 square feet (0.47 m<sup>2</sup>) of occupiable floor space. Where required by the fire code official, an approved aisle, seating or fixed equipment diagram substantiating any increase in occupant load shall be submitted. Where required by the fire code official, such diagram shall be posted.

An increased occupant load is permitted above that developed by using Table 1004.1.2; for example, utilizing the actual occupant load alternative in Section 1004.1.1. However, if the occupant load exceeds that which is determined in accordance with Section 1004.1.2, the fire code official has the authority to require aisle, seating and equipment diagrams to confirm that all occupants have access to an

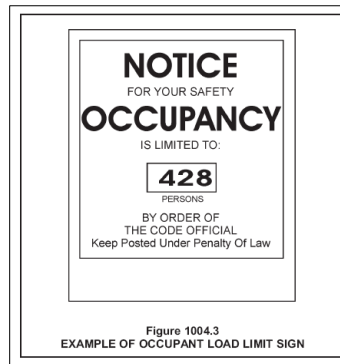
**CONTINUED: CODE CORNER**

exit, the exits provide sufficient capacity for all occupants and compliance with this section is attained.

**1004.3** Posting of occupant load. Every room or space that is an assembly occupancy shall have the occupant load of the room or space posted in a conspicuous place, near the main exit or exit access doorway from the room or space. Posted signs shall be of an approved legible permanent design and shall be maintained by the owner or authorized agent.

Each room or space used for an assembly occupancy is required to display the approved occupant load. The placard must be posted in a visible location (near the main entrance). See Figure 1004.3 for an example of an occupant load limit sign. The posting is required to provide a means by which to determine that the maximum approved occupant load is not exceeded. This permanent and readily visible sign provides a constant reminder to building personnel and is a reference for fire code officials during periodic inspections. While the composition

and organization of information in the sign are not specified, information must be recorded in a permanent manner. This means that a sign with changeable numbers would not be acceptable.



*Randall L. Hormann has been a fire fighter for the last 23 years. He spent 15 plus years in fire safety/public safety for larger division 1 schools in Ohio as well as years of consulting on student training programs and philosophy and campus fire safety. Randy works teaching fire fighters code enforcement and instructional skills, and has lectured on campus fire safety at many colleges, universities and conferences including the NFPA.*

**CONTINUED: UL FIRE FACTS**

Avoid placing your detector directly on top of or directly across from fuel-burning appliances. These appliances will emit some CO when initially turned-on. Never use charcoal grills inside a home, tent, camper or unventilated garage. Don't leave vehicles running in an enclosed garage, even to "warm up" your car on a cold morning. Know how to respond to a CO detector alarm. If your alarm sounds, immediately open windows and doors for ventilation. If anyone in the home is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning -- headache, dizziness or other flu-like symptoms -- immediately evacuate the house and call the fire department. If no one is experiencing these symptoms, continue to ventilate, turn off fuel-burning appliances and call a qualified technician to inspect your heating system and appliances as soon as possible. Because you have provided ventilation, the CO buildup may have dissipated by the time help responds and your problem may appear to be temporarily solved. Do not operate any fuel-burning appliances until you have clearly identified the source of the problem. A CO detector alarm indicates elevated levels of CO in the home. Never ignore the alarm.

**Research Work— by Marsey Pendexter, Research Assistant, CCFS**

In January I was assigned to conduct an extensive research project using the Internet and to create a database of every college in the United States and search for contact information for those involved with the Physical Plant, Residence Life, Safety, Police or Fire Safety on their campus. Over 3,000 colleges were found; and most shockingly many of the websites lacked directory information, especially when dealing with safety and security departments. There are so many parts of a college or university that need to work together to be successful, and to be prepared for an emergency or harmful situation should always be at the top of the list. Needless to say, the project is going to serve as a tool to pull in all of these contacts, pertaining to the physical maintenance or safety of the campus, to be invited to our Campus Fire Forum in October of 2008. Word of mouth spreads rapidly and by contacting at least two people from the same college, the numbers of attendance for the Forum and new members will be ideal. Interning at the Center for Campus Fire Safety has been great. Through High School I worked in Hannaford market in Maine. While I enjoyed the job, because of the friendly people and co-workers, when I transitioned to college, it got old. This CCFS research project very interesting, and it opened my eyes to the career possibilities that are out there for me, far beyond Hannaford market.

**MORE ON CO DETECTION**

Visit:

<http://www.knowaboutco.com/>

Or [www.campusfiresafety.org](http://www.campusfiresafety.org) and click on the CO Detector link.

## CONTINUED: Horizontal and Vertical Sliding and Rolling Fire Doors

The International Fire Code addresses some maintenance and testing requirements for sliding and rolling fire doors in chapter 7, Fire-Resistance Rated Construction. 703.2 states that opening protectives shall be maintained in an operative condition in accordance with NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Fire Windows. They cannot be blocked or otherwise made inoperable and fusible links shall be replaced promptly whenever

Inspection and testing of rolling and sliding fire doors can be problematic due to their hidden status. Many fire alarm service companies routinely test actuation mechanisms that are tied to the alarm system but not the actual performance of the door itself due to the fact that they are not familiar with its maintenance or repair needs. Doors that are not tied to an alarm system do not fall under the responsibility of a fire alarm

service company conducting annual testing of an alarm system. It's up to the building owner to find a professional contractor to test these doors. Fenestration vendors and installers are reluctant to test these assemblies as they are generally unfamiliar with the responsibilities and



fused or damaged. Testing requirements are found in 703.4. Horizontal and vertical sliding and rolling fire doors shall be inspected and tested annually to confirm proper operation and full closure. A written record shall be maintained and be available to the code enforcement official. The record must indicate the date, time, test method and person conducting the test for each opening protective.

code requirements. The best solution is for the building owner to coordinate testing of the alarm system and rolling and sliding fire doors at the same time. By explaining the need for annual testing and proper operation of these assemblies both contractors can work together to ensure proper operation.

So the next time you perform a walk through fire inspection of your property pay close attention to these hidden guardians of life and property and ensure that they be allowed to perform as intended.



*Pablo Davis is a Fire Protection Specialist with the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control. He is actively involved in fire code development and enforcement. As a member of OFPC's Fire Prevention Bureau he works with college campuses across the state conducting code enforcement, training and education on fire and life safety.*

*He is a 13 year member of the volunteer fire service, past chief of the Leonardsville, NY Fire Department and currently serves as Training Officer of the Henry Hiteman Engine and Hose Co. of West Winfield, NY. He is the fifth generation of Hiteman/Davis to serve the company.*

## Why Fire Protection Engineers?

By Kurt Ruchala, P.E. and Tom Bull  
FIREPRO® Incorporated



**H**ow often do you think about the fire safety of your students, personnel, buildings, and the mission of your school? These are the three things we seek to protect when we think about fire safety. Life safety always comes first. We seek to protect our students, staff and visitors from fire at all times. Next we seek to protect our property: buildings and equipment from the cost of replacement and repair from fire damage. And perhaps more important than property: the school's image can be irreparably damaged when word of a fire at your school spreads in the local and national news.

A complete fire protection plan requires a total system. In a complete fire protection system, passive building systems work with active fire alarm and suppression systems interacting with trained personnel according to pre-defined action plans. It's your best defense against a fire loss.

### Planning Fire Protection

What level of fire protection does your school want? You need to establish objectives for fire safety to protect your people, property and mission. Will your students and staff respond appropriately when a fire incident occurs? Fire safety plans and training must be established so that your staff and students know their roles in the event of a fire situation. The fire safety plan that was prepared when your building opened may not reflect the current safety philosophy of your school. It may not incorporate more recent renovations and more recent occupants of the building who may not be aware of its contents.

### Building Codes

Who or what drives fire safety on your campus? Some school officials rely on the building code to dictate what fire protection is provided at their school. Meeting the intent of the code is a minimum standard. The codes are designed to provide a safe means of egress and to limit the spread of fire. They do not necessarily reflect your desire to protect your property and mission. The building codes lag behind the latest technological developments in fire protection and are always subject to the interpretation of the authority having jurisdiction. It is a monumental task to keep abreast of the latest revisions of

each of the codes applicable to your project.

### What needs to be reviewed?

The potential fire is the basis for all fire protection defenses. Aspects of the potential fire that must be considered are the most likely sources of ignition; the growth rate of the fire; and the effect the heat and smoke will have on your building and its contents.

The characteristics of the building dictate how a fire will behave. The configuration of spaces and barriers will determine how fast a fire can move horizontally and vertically. These same factors will influence horizontal and vertical smoke spread within the structure. Hidden spaces between walls or floors can allow a fire to spread or grow in size.

An adequate fire detection and alarm system is crucial for alerting staff and students to an emergency. An alarm system must be designed to be reliable and functional in the event of an emergency. An alarm system that is too sensitive or has detectors poorly located detectors will lose its effectiveness if occupants become accustomed to "false alarms."

A sufficient egress system is necessary to ensure that everyone can escape from the building in the event of an emergency. The egress paths must be identified and protected from the impingement of fire and smoke. Adequate emergency lighting must be provided to ensure occupants can see in areas without natural light and at night if there is a power failure.

Many occupancies now require fire suppression systems to be installed in new construction, and parents are starting to ask if their child's dormitory has a sprinkler system. Special hazards such as data centers, commercial cooking equipment, fuel storage and certain laboratories may call for special suppression systems instead of, or in addition to, a standard sprinkler system.

Several aspects of the building's construction and specialized systems may need to be considered when planning for fire safety. Some of these points may include architectural sensitivity to system installation, smoke management, stairway pressurization, emergency power

CONTINUED >>> PAGE 16



**CONTINUED: FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING**

supply, elevator recall, the use of elevators in firefighting operations and emergency lighting.

**Who can provide the support you need?**

Fire safety officials can turn to a number of design professionals for assistance in fire protection design and planning. The most common choices are an architectural firm, a Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing (MEP) engineering firm and a fire protection engineer.

Architectural firms provide plans for the design of the building and interior finishes considering building functionality and aesthetics. These professionals provide good plans for use of buildings, but when fire protection systems are left in their hands, they often defer the design responsibilities to installation contractors. Having a fire alarm contractor or a sprinkler contractor design your fire alarm or sprinkler system may not be the best choice for either your school's capital or operating budget. This approach often results in systems that meet the minimum code requirements and provides no consideration for your maintenance costs.

MEP engineering firms may be hired by an architect or directly by your school to provide engineering plans for new construction or renovations. These design professionals offer a one stop shop for all of your facility engineering for your school's construction projects. However, this approach usually results in an electrical engineer designing your fire alarm system, and a mechanical engineer designing your sprinkler system. These design professionals have a basic understanding of the codes and standards governing fire protection systems. An electrical engineer will concentrate on designing your building's wiring system, lighting and data networks without focusing on the fire alarm system. The mechanical engineer may place more emphasis on the design of your buildings heating and cooling plant and plumbing system than fire suppression system. These professionals may not be working closely together and realize that certain devices may be excluded where systems overlap or fire containment is provided by the structure of the building.

Fire Protection Engineers (FPE) have the unique perspective of providing fire protection systems designs and fire safety plans based on an understanding of a fire and fire behavior. The FPE can consider how the fire originates, and spreads within the confines of a given structure as well as the best methods to detect, contain and suppress the fire. The FPE is able to anticipate how different materials, structures, and equipment will behave when exposed to fire. The FPE also understands the best methods to protect your school's students, staff, property and mission from the effects of fire.

An FPE will provide a complete review of your fire safety needs and plans to produce a conceptual plan, construction specifications, detailed drawings, review of contractor shop drawings, review of installation and witnessing of systems testing.

A well designed fire protection package, prior to the start of a project, will provide for smooth permitting and a quality installation. With the help of a qualified Fire Protection Engineer, all parties will understand the scope of the work and responsibilities, and the you will have a fire protection package that will perform as expected, be within budget, and be delivered on time.

*Kurt Ruchala and Tom Bull are Fire Protection Engineers at FIREPRO® Incorporated, a Massachusetts firm that provides consulting and fire engineering services; conducts special fire industry research projects; and provides litigation support on special hazard fire detection and suppression systems. [www.fireproincorporated.com](http://www.fireproincorporated.com)*

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U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

## Coffee Break Training

**THIS ISSUE: FIRE LANE IDENTIFICATION**



This service is provided to you at no charge by the [U.S. Fire Administration](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov)

Fire lanes are provided so firefighters can maneuver fire apparatus close to the building for safe and effective operations. Proper signage is important to identify fire lanes so they are not blocked.

Coffee Break Training, "Fire Lane Identification," describes some of the ways fire apparatus access roads can be marked.

To download go to: [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cb\\_2008\\_16.pdf](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cb_2008_16.pdf)

Always refer to nationally recognized design and installation standards, the product manufacturer or listing details for specific information.

Please share this Coffee Break Training segment and others with your peers. Previous Coffee Breaks may be found at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/coffee-break/> <<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/coffee-break/>>

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- For a fire department sample fire lane information packet:  
<http://www.springsgov.com/units/fire/packets/FireLn0900.pdf>
- For a sample fire lane ordinance:  
[http://www.southwindsor.org/pages/swindsorCT\\_firemarshal/firelaneord](http://www.southwindsor.org/pages/swindsorCT_firemarshal/firelaneord)
- For a fire lane discussion board and links to additional information:  
<http://knowledge.fhwa.dot.gov/cops/OpsPublic.nsf/discussionDisplay?Open&id=8ED27165BA91A8B78525705800461022&Group=Signs&tab=DISCUSSION>

Note: Any reference to or illustration of any specific product, code or other document is not to be considered an endorsement by any governmental agency. Such references are used solely for illustrative purposes.



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# “The Inspector”

by Philip Chandler

**A**part from eating lint, there may be nothing more unpleasant than being locked in a room full of life insurance agents.

I know; once upon a time, I was one. Nonetheless, there are lessons I learned in those days that serve me well today.

One compelling bit of sage advice from a veteran agent comes to mind: “You will never sell more than you own.” Folks, this is exactly the case with all that we do.

We will never be as effective as advocates for life-safety as when we ourselves personally buy into the programs and practices we espouse.

I spend a lot of time and effort getting the inspection, testing and maintenance of fire alarm and detection systems to the level and frequency required by the code and referenced standards. I am relentless in making colleges and universities dot their I’s and cross their T’s. When it comes to something as critical as the proper and reliable functioning of these systems, I am just a plain old son-of-a-you-know-what.

But guess what, when it comes to the ITM of the life-safety equipment in my own home, I am remiss! It has been years since I have had a competent technician test and service the smoke and rate-of-rise heat detectors, audible alarms and battery back-up of my home security system. For that matter, there is ample data to suggest that smoke detectors only have a useful life of ten years; mine are eighteen years old. You may



rightly wonder how I am able to sleep at night!

When we installed the system, (sorry to admit, only after being burglarized while we slept) the code only required one smoke detector in the bedroom hallway. Being liberal, we added one in the laundry room and one in the basement. We thought we were way ahead of the curve; we were in any case, way ahead of our neighbors. As the best thinking on home protection changed, calling for smoke detectors in every bedroom, we, however, failed to update our level of protection. Mea culpa! Mea culpa!

What excuses can I offer for my sloth and negligence? The only ones that come to mind are the same old lame excuses that I refuse to accept on the college campus. Like, “It’s on our list, but not our first priority,” or “We simply cannot afford it

now.” How can I ask others to spend their money on life-safety maintenance and upgrades when I am apparently unwilling to do so in the protection of my own family?

And what about sprinkler systems? I am quite sure that I’m not the only one that is comforted by the knowledge that a certain college residence hall or another is fully sprinklered. We would all breathe easier if every school would voluntarily undertake the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in all occupancies. We know deep down that regardless of all the compartmentalization, all the early detection, all the evacuation training and all the fire prevention education, when fires occur, sprinkler systems rule!

Of course every element of life-safety is important and irreplaceable. But based on our specialized knowledge of the campus fire risk,

MORE >>> NEXT PAGE

## CONTINUED: THE INSPECTOR

we must always strongly advocate the installation of sprinklers in all college buildings and for that matter, in all buildings in our community, including single family houses. There may not yet be a legal requirement to sprinkler all buildings, but arguably there may be a moral imperative to do so.

The question then presents itself: If we as professionals uniformly believe that sprinklers are unequalled in their ability to save lives, why do we all not have them in our homes? Some might argue that if they were building a new home, they would certainly install them. But in an old house? Forget it.

Yes, the cost of retro-fitting sprinklers in existing construction is greater than installation in new construction, but what's a couple of grand these days? Look how quick we are to shell out that amount for an HDTV, or whatever else we simply can't live without.

Often when conducting sprinkler demonstrations for the general public, we make the argument that one can protect one's family with fire sprinklers for just about what it costs to protect one's lawn with garden sprinklers. Or we compare the cost of sprinklers with that of granite counter tops. We present these comparisons with the

hopeful thought that our audience might conclude that protecting their families with a sprinkler system is a no-brainer.

If installing fire sprinklers is a no-brainer, where does that leave us? My father always warned me about folks that "speak out of both sides of their mouth." Yet, unfortunately that's exactly what most of us, myself included do. If we don't believe our own rhetoric, how do we expect college administrators, to take our advice on sprinklering the whole campus? "Do as I say, not as I do," never works with our children, why should it work in our professional lives?

All right, now that I've thrown myself and most of my colleagues under the bus, where do we go from here? We all need to take a personal safety inventory of our own lives. We need to compare and contrast what we find with our best notions of what life-safety demands. If we find discrepancies, we need to give ourselves a good talking to.

It absolutely amazes me how every time I sit down at the typewriter, well worn, but timeless aphorisms continuously pop into my head, and from there to the printed page. For the endless truisms and over use of metaphors, I apologize. Yet I am powerless to resist the use of familiar proverbs

when they so succinctly get the message across. With this having been said, ponder this: We need to "put our money where our mouths are!" If that doesn't work, how about, "practice what you preach."

The truth is, despite their having been around for some time now, residential fire sprinklers are still in their infancy. Many communities lack experienced installers and product distributors. If every one of us decides tomorrow to install sprinklers in our homes, many of us will be unsuccessful in our attempt. Some of us will be dismayed that the cost far exceeds what industry sources lead us to believe. One can reasonably hope that these problems will disappear as the demand for this technology grows.

We for our part, once we get our actions lined up with the level of our perceptions, can help get the proverbial (there I go again) ball rolling. Let us together pioneer the ready availability and affordability of residential fire sprinklers. Let us be the vanguard, starting with our own homes. Let us clearly and unequivocally establish ourselves in the eyes of all as the peerless advocates for life-safety that we all hope to be.



### ABOUT THE INSPECTOR .....

*Philip Chandler is a long time firefighter and a full-time government fire marshal working extensively in the college environment - from large public university centers to small private colleges. His primary responsibilities include code enforcement and education.*

*Phil welcomes your comments, thoughts and opinions (whether in agreement or opposition) to his viewpoints. He may be reached at: [theinspector@campusfire.org](mailto:theinspector@campusfire.org)*

### For New Englanders

Over the past few years the New England College and University Fire Safety Officer Association (NECUFSOA) has been inactive. Several of us are interested in re-establishing this association and would like to spread the word! Please see the linked documents for information and please forward this information to your college/University contacts in New England.



[More Info](#) | [Application](#)

Thank you,

**Peter Malfa**, FSO, Fairfield University

(203) 254-4000 x 3223

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**New Schedule for 08/09.**

Firewise Campus is a team of fire safety professionals working with the Center for Campus Fire Safety and Underwriters Laboratories to provide an instructor led program targeting those who are accountable for fire safety at colleges and universities.

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This DVD contains a compilation of 10 campus fire safety video programs donated by organizations and schools across the country. Included are Graduation:Fatally Denied, Dana Christmas Story, Dominic's Story, Living With Fire, Live Dorm Room Burn, Best Line of Defense, Ready to Respond, Get Out and Stay Alive, FEMA Campus Fire Safety 101. Cost is \$29.00 and includes shipping.

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