

THE CENTER FOR  
**Campus Fire Safety**

[www.campusfire.org](http://www.campusfire.org)

**Campus**  
 The Official Newsletter of the Center for Campus Fire Safety  
**FireZone**®

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**Center for Campus Fire Safety and Campusfiresafety.com Announce Partnership**

Between January, 2000 and February 27, 2007, the Center received reports of 105 campus-related fire fatalities that include; students, parents, children and other occupants in student housing. The states with the most fatalities:  
Ohio - 12  
North Carolina - 9  
West Virginia—8  
Indiana & Pennsylvania -7  
Kansas - 5

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**COLUMBUS, OHIO**— The Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) has created yet another important relationship to add to its growing momentum. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that it has engaged CampusFireSafety.com to serve as its publisher for their monthly newsletter *The Campus FireZone*.

Center for Campus Fire Safety President Michael Halligan said, "I am very excited about the future, especially with the collective energies, experiences and dedication of the people this joint venture is bringing together, and I believe this newsletter will only be the beginning of a great partnership." The Center had long sought to distribute a free monthly newsletter to serve as an invaluable source of

information for all who are working daily to make the colleges and universities of America safe from fire – and *The CampusFireZone* was the answer.

As part of this all-star alliance, the CCFS and CampusFireSafety.com have begun a strategic relationship to promote and distribute their collective fire safety information. The challenges of tackling the campus fire issue will only be overcome by using the combined powers and experiences of many fire safety professionals, the union of the Center for Campus Fire Safety and CampusFireSafety.com demonstrates the deeply rooted commitment both have advocating for fire safe campuses.

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**"The Inspector"**  
 by Philip Chandler



To those of you who may be familiar with my writings from another publication and have missed this column, apologies are in order. The Inspector has been up to his eyeballs in, you guessed it, inspections. To those of you perusing the pages of this new and exciting newsletter where I will now be regularly appearing, welcome. To all, let's get acquainted or reacquainted, whatever the case may be.

At first glance, this screed is the ranting and raving of code enforcement official that takes his job, saving lives, real seriously. Readers each month are likely to encounter whatever it is that has really ticked me off the preceding month as I work my beat on the local colleges and universities. But in truth, this column is not about me; it's about making the campus a safer place for all those that learn, work or live there.

This column belongs to all those that are likewise charged with assuring the life safety of others. I may be on the soapbox, but I certainly do not have all the answers. Fire prevention, and for that matter firefighting, is a collaborative effort. Accordingly, I beseech you to keep those emails and letters coming. Let me know when you think I'm full of myself or just full of you know what.

- Continued on page 7 -



**"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 each news story. If you would like to see the entire article or view more news not listed in this section, please visit:

[CampusFireSafety.com](http://CampusFireSafety.com)  
click on: "News Wire".

**Real Time Campus  
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Visit:  
[CampusFireSafety.com](http://CampusFireSafety.com)

Click on:  
**News Wire**

Information updated daily  
(...well almost daily...)



[www.campusfire.org](http://www.campusfire.org)

February 1, 2007  
**Chester College of  
New England  
Chester, NH**

The fire was possibly started by a worker who was repairing frozen pipes in the attic of a dormitory. No one was injured; however, dozens of students were displaced due to the water damage.

February 5, 2007  
**University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA**

A fire occurred at the Chi Phi fraternity house. The fire started when a stuffed animal was set a blaze and thrown into a pile of debris as part of the group's bid day activities. Members of the chapter used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire.

February 7, 2007  
**Long Island University**

An electrical short in an outlet behind the bed of a dorm room is the cause of the fire which happened at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University. The building was temporarily closed.

February 8, 2007  
**University of Wisconsin –  
Green Bay, WI**

Firefighters were called to a dorm fire caused by a busted pipe leaking into a light fixture.

**State University of NY  
Fredonia, NY**

Popular dorm room lamps have been banned from several colleges in upstate New York due to the bulb

burning holes into the plastic shade. The lamps are now the subject of a government investigation.

**Appalachian State Univ.  
Boone, NC**

A former Appalachian State University student is arrested for setting a fire to a bulletin board in the Living Learning Center. No one was injured; however, residents of the center are outraged because they were evacuated for four hours during exam week.

**University of Wisconsin  
Oshkosh, WI**

A fire broke out in an off-campus house on February 8 after a cigarette ignited a couch on the back porch of the residence. No person was injured; however, a car that was parked near the residence caught on fire as well.

February 9, 2007  
**University of North  
Carolina – Greensboro  
Greensboro, NC**

A dormitory on the campus of UNCG is evacuated after a space heater malfunctioned and caught fire in a stairwell. No one was injured.

**East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC**

An ECU student is facing four years supervised probation after setting her dormitory roommate's bed on fire. The dormitory was evacuated and one person suffered smoke inhalation.

**University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT**

An unattended candle caused a fire in an off-campus apartment building. No one was injured; however, the fire caused enough damage that all occupants have been relocated by Residential Life. The damage is estimated at \$12,000.

February 10, 2007  
**Southern Methodist  
University  
Dallas, TX**

A small fire in the heating system caused the evacuation of the Sigma Chi house on the campus of Southern Methodist University. No one was injured and damage is estimated at \$10,000

February 11, 2007  
**University of North  
Carolina – Greensboro  
Greensboro, NC**

The campus community is still grieving after a graduate student set an apartment complex on fire five years ago. The graduate student was charged with arson and murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

February 12, 2007  
**York College  
York, PA**

York City Police are currently looking for a person who started a trash fire near York College.

February 13, 2007  
**Seton Hall University  
South Orange, NJ**

The two students convicted with the 2000 arson fire in a residence hall have been to

5 years in a “young offenders prison.” The fire in 2000 occurred when two students ignited a banner in a residence hall. The flames spread to a couch and filled the dorm with smoke. Three students died. Because of this, New Jersey now requires sprinklers in all dormitories at colleges and boarding schools.

**University of Texas  
Austin, TX**

An abandoned apartment building is destroyed after fire breaks out on UT Austin’s West campus. Investigators are trying to figure out what caused the fire that took more than 60 firefighters to put out.

February 15, 2007  
**Halifax Community College  
Weldon, NC**

One student was killed in an off-campus fire caused by cigarettes or cigars that ignited a bed. The landlord of the complex had warned the victim six to nine times not to take down the smoke alarm. Damage is estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000.

February 16, 2007  
**University at Buffalo  
Buffalo, NY**

A broken steam pipe causes a campus dormitory to evacuate. Damage was contained to one floor.

February 18, 2007  
**Central Michigan University  
Mount Pleasant, MI**

A couch fire in a dormitory caused no serious harm to students or the building. The fire was intentionally set.

February 20, 2007  
**University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO**  
A mechanical malfunction in an elevator and a fire extinguisher discharging caused the evacuation of two separate dormitories. No one was injured. The fire extinguisher was taken for fingerprints.

**Susquehanna University  
Selinsgrove, PA**

Four male students are displaced after a fire ripped through their off-campus home. The fire was caused by the heat from a wood burner. Damage to the property is estimated at \$85,000.

February 21, 2007  
**Benedict College  
Stony Brook, NY**

An early investigation found that burning towels could potentially be the cause of a dormitory fire at Benedict College. Residents were evacuated, and the building was temporarily shut down. No one was injured.

**Knoxville College  
Knoxville, TN**

Eighty students were evacuated from a dormitory after fire breaks out in a room. The dormitory has extensive smoke damage, but only two rooms were gutted. Ironically, firefighters came to campus earlier in the day to conduct a pre-fire plan.

**Central Michigan University  
Mount Pleasant, MI**

Three hundred and forty-two students were evacuated for the second time in less than a week when a fire was found in a bag

of trash in a dormitory stairwell. University Police continue to search for a young woman who may have information about the first fire.

February 22, 2007  
**St. Augustine College  
Raleigh, NC**

Two students at a historically black college in North Carolina were fined \$150 dollars each because of their late response to a fire alarm in campus dormitory.

**Northern Michigan University  
Marquette, MI**

Injuries and damage caused by fires in dormitories are reduced after the installation of a state of the art fire safety system.

February 26, 2007  
**Boston University  
Boston, MA**

Two students are dead and one is seriously injured after a burning candle came into contact with a combustible material at a Boston University apartment complex. Damage to the apartment complex is estimated at about \$1 million.

**University of Montana  
Missoula, MT**

An arson investigation is underway into the cause of a fire at a dormitory. The blaze displaced 330 students. Damage is estimated at \$5,000 to \$10,000

**University of California San  
Diego— San Diego, CA**

Fifteen people were evacuated from a campus shuttle bus when it caught on fire.

C-News Sponsors





**Catch  
the rest  
of this  
month’s  
news  
in the  
April issue  
or on our  
website!**

# Career Connection

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is accepting applications for the position of Director of the Department of Environment, Health, and Safety. With 42 employees and an annual budget of \$4.2 million, the department is responsible for the University's comprehensive safety program, including industrial hygiene, biological safety, radiation safety, fire safety, environmental affairs, workplace safety and training, and workers' compensation. In addition to serving a campus community of 40,000 faculty, staff, and students, including over 10,000 on-campus residents and over 1 million visitors a year, the department manages the radiation safety program as well as radioactive and hazardous waste disposal for UNC Hospitals.

Further information on the department may be found at <http://ehs.unc.edu/>



**Announcement Sponsors**

## Announcements

### NFSA Offers Free On-line Seminar on IRC Code Issues

**WASHINGTON, DC**—For the first time in the history of the International Residential Code (IRC), there is a real possibility that mandatory sprinkler requirements for one- and two-family dwellings could become a part of that code. To help support passage of these requirements at the IRC Final Action Hearing taking place on

May 21 – 26, 2007 in Rochester, New York, NFSA is offering a FREE educational on-line seminar on Friday, March 9, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. EST to better inform the sprinkler industry of its strategy to educate Fire and Building Officials and urge their attendance at the code hearing.  
[http://www.nfsa.org/IRC\\_bulletin.pdf](http://www.nfsa.org/IRC_bulletin.pdf)

### New York State Incident Launches National Interest

**ALBANY, NY**—The New York State Fire Marshal's Office has been working to make colleges aware of a potential hazard recently uncovered with the assistance of the staff at SUNY Fredonia.

Numerous campuses across the state have been reporting "close calls" involving a floor lamp similar to the one illustrated.

Following the advice of the fire marshal's office as

contained in a special Campus Fire Safety Bulletin ( <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/CFSBArchive/CFSBulletinfloorlight.pdf> ) many colleges undertook a concentrated sweep on campus. Initial reports indicate numerous similar cases being identified. The fire marshal's office remains in contact with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Underwriter's Laboratories, (UL), both of who are

## Viewer Mail

*No Viewer Mail at this time.*

*Please send us your questions, comments and/or suggestions and we will try to publish them.*

looking into the matter closely. An in-depth article on this subject is expected in to appear in the April edition.



**CampusFireZone®**

# The Training Zone

Sponsored By:  **NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION, INC.**



**Topic:**  
**Property Protection or Life Safety Sprinklers**

**Learning objective:** The student shall be able to explain the difference between sprinklers listed for residential occupancies or property protection.

A sprinkler is a sprinkler is a sprinkler, right? Wrong. People often assume that because a building is equipped with automatic fire sprinklers they are designed for all hazards. Sprinklers designed for property protection have different operating characteristics from those designed for life safety.

Sprinklers intended for property protection must meet the performance standards established in Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standard 199 “Automatic Sprinklers for Fire Protection Service.” Their discharge pattern is designed for fire control or suppression by wetting adjacent combustibles to keep the fire from spreading or, in the case of Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinklers discharging an adequate volume and pressure to extinguish a fire before it spreads.

Sprinklers meeting UL Standard 199 can be used in systems designed in accordance with NFPA 13 or 13-R for those spaces not normally considered “residential,” such as storage, equipment, or mechanical rooms.

Sprinklers for life safety must meet the stringent requirements of UL Standard 1626, “Residential Sprinklers for Fire Protection Service.”

While they also are considered to be fire control mode sprinklers, their discharge pattern and Response Time Index (RTI), make them suitable for installation in NFPA 13-R and 13-D design residential occupancies.

Listed residential sprinklers are designed to prevent flash-over in the room of origin, to give occupants adequate time to escape. They are designed to wet the walls and ceilings of the enclosure, help keep carbon monoxide levels low, and maintain a tenable environment. Although they can be successful at controlling property fires, they are not designed to do that.

Fire inspectors may encounter sprinklers installed in the “incorrect” environment. When that occurs, inspectors should notify the property owner to have the appropriate sprinkler protection installed.

For additional information, refer to [www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com); NFPA 13, Installation of Sprinkler Systems; NFPA 13-R, Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Multi-Family Dwellings up to and Including Four Stories in Height; and NFPA 13-D, Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes.



## From The President - Mike Halligan

As the Center for Campus Fire Safety starts 2007, it is embarking on a new path. Through this monthly journal, CCFS is now reaching over 5000 fire safety professionals on campus and in the communities that host a college or university. Most notably, the journal is free of charge to all those who are interested. The articles you will find in this new publication are designed to provide information that can be applied to the challenges you face on a daily basis regarding campus fire prevention.

I would encourage all readers to look at the section that updates incidents relevant to campus fire safety. The brief synopsis will give you basic information, and if you want more, you are just one click away.

The Center is also transforming itself into an organization that focuses on collection of data to help identify trends in campus fire safety. It will maintain relationships with the fire safety industry and will continue to promote a balanced approach to providing higher education around the world with the best solutions to the complex challenges of fire safety on campus.

The Center will continue to provide a yearly conference (Austin, Texas November 13, 14, 15, 2007) and will expand to deliver one and two day regional fire safety seminars.

There are a team of individuals that are committed to the success of the Center. A formal Board of Directors exists which provides leadership and direction for the Center. They have just finished a business plan and are in the early stages



of writing a job description for a new Chief Executive Officer. The Board is also working to establish a long-term financial plan for the Center and will be looking for opportunities to partner with other non-profit organizations and industry to jointly promote campus fire safety.

Mike is the President of the Center for Campus Fire Safety and the Associate Director of Environmental Health and Safety at the University of Utah.

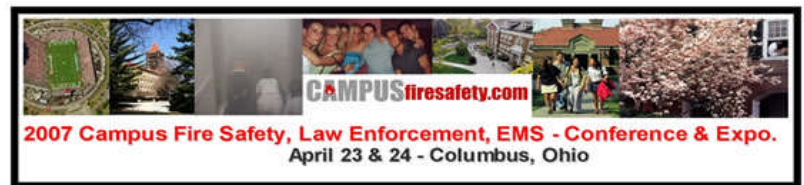
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*-Partnership continued from page 1 -*

Campus FireZone Publisher Randall Hormann of CampusFireSafety.com echoes the enthusiasm expressed by CCFS officials, "We now have two strong organizations working for one common goal, sharing resources and knowledge."

The agreement between the two groups is expected to kick off further collaboration. "Randy has long been devoted to keeping college students safe from fire." says Paul D. Martin, Vice-President of the Center for Campus Fire Safety. "The Center is pleased to be working with someone who also values innovation and breaking down barriers. This agreement is the first step in what I believe will be a great partnership."

## Center for Campus Fire Safety Officers to Attend Conference

**COLUMBUS, OHIO** — Members of the Board of Directors from the Center for Campus Fire Safety are expected to attend the *5th Annual Campus Fire Safety, Law Enforcement, and EMS Conference & Expo* in Columbus, Ohio April 23-24<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by CampusFire-Safety.com, this unique conference delivers information to a cross section of campus public safety professionals - fire, law enforcement/security and emergency medical providers.

On hand over the two days will be several of the Center's officers to

discuss the Center's operations, future programs, the new partnership between the Center and CampusFireSafety.com as well as to greet attendees. They will also be promoting the recently unveiled training program; "*Building an Effective Fire Safety Training Program*" that they developed in partnership with UL University, a division of Underwriters Laboratories.

For more details, cost, and schedule of events; please visit- [www.CampusFireSafety.com](http://www.CampusFireSafety.com)

Let me know what's on your mind, what's got you really torqued. Together let's make these pages a forum for exploration of all those issues affecting fire and life safety on and off the college campus.

This month, I am still smarting from the words of one college administrator that upon completion of a campus-wide inspection, accused me of inflicting "death by a thousand cuts." He explained that during a long career in campus administration he had never seen an inspection resulting in so many citations. He further argued that that such an inspection containing citations for open junction boxes, reversed polarity, missing ground plugs and the like were way over the top. Blocked exits, inoperative fire detection equipment, oily rag accumulations, sure, cite those. But furnaces with improper exhaust venting, dorm rooms with only one electrical outlet, uncapped sewer lines, give me a break! To add insult to injury my inspection report was viewed as impugning the institution's commitment to safety altogether, let alone the hard work and very integrity of the men and women of the facilities maintenance department. Give me a break!

An old timer once took me aside and said, "Phil, whoever told you that doing life safety inspections will win you friends?" Everyone wants to be liked. We inspectors are actually human and are therefore sensitive to how others regard us. We may even at times question ourselves as to whether we are in fact being too overbearing and just plain mean and cantankerous. We must, however, in most cases avoid the pitfall of self-doubt. We must strengthen ourselves and inform others that there is nothing wrong with enforcing the fire code in all its detail. Let's not forget, regardless of which standard we use, that the provisions therein are in truth only the "minimum standards" for safeguarding the public from the hazards of the built environment. We are not making unreasonable demands when we call on colleges to do only the absolute minimum that prudence dictates.

My father frequently remarked, "If you live long enough, you'll see everything." How true this is in regards to fire-fighting. After twenty five years of responding to dryer fires, electrical fires, trash fires, gas explosions and carbon monoxide incidents, I cannot say I have seen everything, but I certainly can say I have seen enough to know one thing: it's often the seemingly most inconsequential transgression of the fire and building code that causes the incident. No code violations are trivial. If it's in there, it will be at one time or another, a matter of life and death.

Akin to the above complaint, is the one, "why didn't you cite us for this violation during your last inspection; why are you just now dumping this on us?" At the heart of this complaint are two fundamental misunderstandings of the entire code enforcement process. For starters, it is just about physically impossible for an inspector to see every violation during one visit. To even come close to a 100% complete inspection would require spending days in each building, if ever leaving at all. It's just not feasible to conduct every inspection with that degree of thoroughness and not likely to best serve the public good.

Secondly, and most significantly, is the erroneous and dangerous belief that if we don't cite the violation, the college is under no obligation to identify and abate code deficiencies on their own. Those that complain the loudest about the length of our inspection reports are usually the ones that do not recognize their own legal and moral obligation to maintain the "minimum standards" of safety year-round, every day and every hour. It is a travesty that some noteworthy institutions wait for us to inform them of life safety deficiencies and then complain that our inspection places an unfair burden on their facilities maintenance department. So many of the items we note are clearly visible to the untrained eye. How lame is it that campus trades people will everyday walk right by glaring and egregious code violations and never take the time to report them, let alone take the initiative and simply correct the problem? Perhaps it's not the workers themselves that are at fault, but rather the administration that does not clearly articulate the primacy of life safety and does not empower all staff to be part of the effort in securing it for the college community. My inspection should really only be adding the finishing touches to an already effective life safety program, not starting from scratch every year.

That having been said, we undoubtedly have our work cut out for us. All of us that deeply commit ourselves every day to keeping others out of harm's way must continuously look for ways to build consensus on our college communities that our work truly matters. We must never tire of asserting the inherent value of each human life. All our institutions seemingly are founded on this notion; they just need a little reminding now and then.

*Philip Chandler is a long time firefighter and a fulltime 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.*