

FIRE SAFETY STATISTICS

- Smoking was the leading cause (29 percent) of fatal campus fires.
- Alcohol was a factor in 76 percent of fatal campus fires.
- Smoke alarms were either missing or tampered with (disconnected or battery removed) in 58 percent of fatal campus fires.
- Fire sprinklers were not present in any of the 85 fatal campus fires.
- 70 percent of fatal campus fires occurred on the weekend (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday).
- 73 percent of the fatal fires occurred between midnight and 6 a.m.
- April was the peak month (13 percent) for fatal fires in campus housing.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration (2000–2015)

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Reed Community Safety
503/788-6666

Fire and Police
911

FIRE SAFETY



Reed College
New Student Orientation
Fall 2019

HOW TO RESPOND TO A FIRE ALARM

Fire safety experts stress the importance of practicing escape plans in case of fire in a residence hall room. A fire alarm should never be ignored. Students must get out of the building immediately and stay out until given the direction to come back in.

When a fire occurs you should:

- “Get low and go” under the smoke to the nearest safe exit, assisting people with mobility impairments.
- Never use the elevator—take the stairs instead.
- Carefully feel a closed door for heat before opening. If it’s hot, find another way out.

If trapped in a room:

- Keep doors closed.
- Call 911.
- Put a wet towel under the door to keep out smoke.
- Open a window and wave a bright cloth or flashlight to signal for help.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Cooking

- Cook only in designated areas.
- Keep clutter away from the cooking area.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

Smoking

- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are fully extinguished.
- Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- Use deep, wide ashtrays and place them on top of something sturdy.
- Check chairs and sofas for cigarette butts after parties, as furniture is highly flammable.
- Avoid smoking when drinking or drowsy.

Alcohol

- Do not consume alcohol and cook—you could fall asleep and cause a fire.
- Make sure a working smoke alarm is installed; it significantly increases your chances of escaping and surviving a deadly fire.
- After a party or get-together where alcohol is consumed, check for smoking materials, especially under couch cushions.

Electrical and Heating

- Keep anything that could burn at least three feet from all heat sources.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Plug portable heaters directly into wall outlets; do not use extension cords or power strips.
- Use portable heaters that have an automatic shut-off when tipped over.
- Never use an oven to heat your home or apartment.

Candles

- Make sure candles are in sturdy holders and are put out after each use. Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Always use a flashlight—not a candle—for emergency lighting.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that could burn.

Off-Campus Apartments

- Look for fully sprinklered housing when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing.
- Test all smoke alarms at least monthly. Never remove batteries or disable the alarm.
- Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a barbecue grill, fire pit, or chimney.