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PRESS RELEASE

NFPA and The Center for Campus Fire Safety urge students to make fire and life safety a priority during Campus Fire Safety Month

August 13, 2026 – As move-in season brings students back to campuses nationwide, [The Center for Campus Fire Safety](#) (CCFS) and the [National Fire Protection Association](#)® (NFPA®) and are launching this year's [Campus Fire Safety Month campaign](#) to help create safer living environments in residence halls and off-campus housing. Observed each September, the campaign delivers fire safety education and resources to students, families, and campus housing professionals.

This year, the initiative shines the spotlight on safe cooking practices and lithium-ion battery safety, two critical areas of concern that can help reduce fire risk where students live, study, and gather.

According to CCFS statistics, from January 2000 to August 2026, 94 fatal fires occurred on a college campus, in Greek housing, or in off-campus housing within three miles of the campus, claiming 134 victims.

The Center for Campus Fire Safety, Inc

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Mailing address: 125 Church Street, Suite 90-382, Pembroke, Massachusetts 02359
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Fire Location	Number of Fires	Number of Student Fatalities
Off Campus Housing	80	114
On Campus Housing	8	10
Greek Housing	6	10
Total	94	134

Of the 94 fatal fires documented:

Fire Cause	Number of Fires	Number of Student Fatalities
Intentional	14	22
Accidental (includes cooking, candles, smoking or electrical)	38	51
Unknown (cause was never determined – or the cause was not available at press time)	42	61

While different from the CCFS Fire Fatality Stats, NFPA tracks U.S. Fire Department responses on a much wider basis. According to the latest NFPA statistics, from 2020 – 2024, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 3,198 structure fires in dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses, and other related properties including military barracks. These incidents caused annual averages of 2

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civilian deaths, 20 million civilian injuries, and \$20 million in direct property damage. Roughly three out of four fires in these properties started in the kitchen or cooking area, accounting for 58 percent of civilian injuries and 14 percent of the direct property damage. Cooking equipment was involved in nearly eight out of 10 fires; unattended equipment was the most common factor contributing to the ignition of these fires.

“The excitement of moving into a new dorm or apartment often comes with new responsibilities including preparing meals safely,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA and CCFS Advisory Council member. “Cooking remains one of the most significant fire risks in student housing, with unattended cooking continuing to be the leading cause. Campus Fire Safety Month is an opportunity to remind students that small actions such as staying in the kitchen while cooking and keeping anything that can burn away from the stovetop, can prevent devastating fires.”

NFPA and CCFS offer several tips and resources for cooking safely, including these key messages:

- **Stay alert and present.** Do not cook if you’re tired or drowsy from medicine or alcohol. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. Turn off the burner if you leave the kitchen for any reason.
- **Keep flammables away from heat sources.** Keep anything that can catch fire – oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains – away from your stovetop.

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- **Be prepared for emergencies.** Always have a lid within reach to smother small grease fires. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled. If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire, get outside, close the door behind you, and call 911 from outside the home.

This year's campaign also addresses another growing fire safety challenge on campus: lithium-ion batteries. As their use continues to expand in everything from laptops and phones to e-bikes and e-scooters, so does the importance of understanding how to use and charge them safely.

"Lithium-ion batteries are prevalent in the campus environment from laptops to research projects. College students rely on technology and many use micromobility devices every day. The batteries that power these devices can present safety hazards such as overheating, fire, or even explosions," said CCFS president and University of Maryland Fire Marshal, Alan Sactor. "Campus Fire Safety Month is a year-round commitment, and we will continue working to help educate all members of the college and university campus community on how to safely use, charge, and store, these devices to reduce the risk of fire."

NFPA and CCFS offer tips for safely using, storing, and charging lithium-ion batteries to help prevent fires:

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- **Review campus policies.** Some dormitories have rules about charging micromobility devices like e-bikes and e-scooters. Review your college/university's policies before using these devices.
- **Buy only listed products.** When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, look for a safety certification mark. This means it meets important safety standards.
- **Charge devices safely.** Only use the charging equipment provided with your device, stop charging once full, and never charge overnight or with damaged chargers/batteries.
- **Store devices properly.** Keep your batteries away from extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, and flammable items, and never block an exit with charging or stored devices.

For this information and more about Campus Fire Safety Month, and to find free resources and safety tips, visit:

- [History of Campus Fire Safety Month and Proclamation](#)
- [CCFS – Safety Tips and Videos for Students and Educators](#)
- [NFPA Safety Tips](#)
- [CCFS Micromobility and Lithium-Ion Battery College Fire Reporting Program](#)
- [NFPA Lithium-Ion Battery Tips](#)

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About The Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS)

CCFS is the voice of over 4,000 campus fire and life safety officials. With its roots in the first Forum on Campus Fire Safety in 1999, at NFPA Headquarters in Quincy, Massachusetts, CCFS has advocated for fire and life safety at the nation's institutions of higher education for over 25 years, incorporating as a non-profit in 2005. CCFS is a membership-based organization devoted to reducing the loss of life from fire at colleges and universities, both on and off-campus. CCFS members and followers reach throughout North America with growing international membership. Visit us at: <http://www.mycfcs.org>.

About the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach, and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at nfpa.org/freeaccess.

For announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the [NFPA press room](#).

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