

**Annual Fire Safety Report &  
Residence Hall Fire Safety Policies  
2023**

Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act became federal law with the passage of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. The new law requires colleges and universities that maintain on-campus housing to compile fire data, report the data to the federal government, and publish an annual fire safety report that gives students, parents and the public current information about fires in on-campus housing. The following report has been prepared and made available to the Wesleyan University community in accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act and the regulations by the U.S. Department of Education.

**Fire Reporting Policy**

To report fires on campus, call the Office of Public Safety at 860/685-3333 or Campus Ext. 3333 or dial 911 from any campus phone. If you also dial 911 directly from a cell phone, it will connect you to 911 Central Dispatch.

**Manual Pull Stations** - Pulling the handle of a manual pull station activates the building fire alarm system in the event of an emergency. The pull station should only be used if there is an active fire or a smell of smoke, and the automatic fire alarm system has not yet activated. Evacuate the building immediately and call Public Safety or 911 to report the incident. Pull stations are located at every egress door in buildings that have an automatic fire alarm system.

**Fire Evacuation Policy**

In the event of a fire alarm activation, you must evacuate the building by the closest exit and call 911 or Public Safety 860/685-3333 or Ext. 3333 from a campus phone to report the details of the incident if they are known. Once you have exited the building report to the designated meeting area for your particular location. Resident Advisors (RA's) and House Managers (HM's) are required to communicate to all of the residents where the designated meeting area is for the buildings they are responsible for. Individuals should wait and must follow the instructions of Middletown Fire Department and/or Public Safety officers. No one may re-enter the building until directed to do so by Middletown Fire Department and/or Public Safety officers.

**Fire Alarm and Evacuation Procedures**

When a system-connected fire alarm is activated, it is able to communicate in one of the two ways:

1. The alarm sends a signal to the fire alarm monitoring company, which is then responsible for notifying the Middletown Fire Department and Public Safety, which is staffed 24/7
2. or the alarm system notifies MFD directly. Officers from Public Safety will promptly respond to the scene to aid in evacuation and safety procedures.

These procedures should be followed each time you hear an alarm:

- Do not ignore the alarm. Everyone must evacuate.
- Remain calm and proceed with an orderly evacuation
- Leave the building immediately with your shoes, another garment (such as a jacket), and your keys.
- Find the closest exit and go to your designated meeting location

- Report any information you may have about the cause of the alarm activation to the Fire Department and/or Public Safety
- Let the Fire Department and/or Public Safety know if someone that was in your building is not outside
- Await further instructions from the Fire Department and/or Public Safety
- Do not re-enter the building until the Fire Department and/or Public Safety direct you to do so. Silencing of the alarm does not imply the emergency is over.

## **Fire Safety Policies**

Do not cover, or in any way tamper with smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, pull stations, horn/strobe devices, sprinkler heads or pipes, or fire extinguishers. There will be points issued for tampering with any fire life safety equipment.

The following items are not allowed in resident rooms or common areas, including porches, because of the fire and life safety risk:

- Candles - even decorative candles are prohibited
- Incense - All forms including incense sticks (or "joss sticks"), cones, and pyramids are prohibited.
- Used smoking materials - no smoking within 25' of any university building
- Ungrounded extension cords (two-prong type); only grounded (three-prong type) extension cords and fused power strips are permitted
- Plug adapters - 3 prong to 2 prong
- Tapestries hanging on walls or ceilings; see definitions of prohibited items link for more information. Link is located on the Campus Fire Safety website homepage {[www.wesleyan/firesafety](http://www.wesleyan/firesafety)}
- Halogen lamps, both standing and desk lamps
- Portable electric or space heaters
- Cooking Appliances - which includes anything with a heating element, such as hot plate, electric kettle, electric frying pan or wok, toaster or toaster oven, waffle maker, electric grill, popcorn popper, rice cooker, etc. (Cooking appliances are allowed in apartment, wood frame and program house kitchens)
- Coffee makers and water kettles are only allowed if they have an automatic shut-off.
- Charcoal or Gas Grills are not allowed in any university-owned houses or residences, or on porches or balconies at any time (i.e. grills cannot be stored on porches)
- Vaporizers - the type that uses a ceramic heating element to diffuse aromatherapy herbs and oils
- Open Flame Devices or any Combustible Fuel - Devices include - Tiki Torches, Kerosene or propane lamps. Combustible fuel is defined as lighter fluid, charcoal lighter fluid, tiki torch fluid, & gasoline.
- Open burning - bonfires, campfires, fire pits, etc. (Also prohibited by City of Middletown ordinance)
- Explosives, ammunition, incendiary devices and fireworks
- Mercury thermometers – due to the potential environmental hazard and significant clean-up costs associated with a mercury spill or contamination, mercury thermometers are prohibited in any student residence
- Smoke/fog machines – a device emits a dense vapor that appears similar to fog or smoke.
- Hover boards and other battery-operated scooters & bikes – these have been known to use lithium-ion batteries that can malfunction and overheat, which can result in a fire.
- Wax Warmers - Although fire danger from an open flame is eliminated, there are still several reasons why wax warmers are considered a fire safety hazard - these include - overheating of warming plate or electrical outlet & burn hazard associated with hot wax.
- String lights – cannot be plugged in through window/doors and/or hung on safety devices

## **Fire Safety Inspections**

University staff will conduct unannounced room inspections throughout the academic year. Residents will receive point(s) for each violation, and prohibited items will be confiscated. Candles, incense and extension cords will not be returned, contact Campus Fire Safety for other confiscated items. A receipt will be given to you, or left in your room, notifying you of any violations and/or fines.

Other unauthorized items found during inspections.

If upon entering a room, the inspectors find any other unauthorized items such as a weapon – gun, sword, knife, etc. – or illegal drugs, which are prohibited by the Code of Non-academic Conduct; the inspector must contact Public Safety to confiscate the item. Public Safety or the office of the Dean of Students should be contacted for information regarding other unauthorized confiscated items.

## **Fire Drills**

Supervised fire drills are conducted in each residence hall 2 times a year (once a semester). All drills are supervised by a Middletown Fire Marshal, Residential Life staff, and Campus Fire Safety staff.

## **Fire Safety Education and Training Programs**

All residents are required to attend a meeting in their residence hall at the beginning of the school year to discuss fire safety, fire evacuation plans, and rules and regulations of the residence hall.

All students sign a housing contract which states that Fire Safety Guidelines are also part of your Housing Contract.

Students are encouraged to review the Code of Non-Academic Conduct, which can be found online in the Student Handbook {[www.wesleyan.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.wesleyan.edu/studenthandbook)}.

Head Residents (HRs), Resident Advisors (RAs), House Managers (HMs), and Community Advisors (CAs) who are supervised by the professional Area Coordinator (AC) staff go through several weeks of training in August, before the academic year, including training in fire safety procedures and policies.

Fire Extinguisher Training module- Campus Fire Safety Department offers training on how to properly use a fire extinguisher by using a training module created by BullEx. This training is offered to Students, Faculty, and Staff members. The module allows them to use a fire extinguisher to put out an actual fire and is offered many times throughout the academic year.

## **Fire Alarm Activation Log**

The Department of Campus Fire Safety in conjunction with the Public Safety Department maintains the records of all alarm activations and fires that occur on campus. The log contains the following information: date, location name, and address, type of alarm, cause/reason, contact information, notes, injuries, and value of property damage. The log is organized by the date the alarm occurred. Public Safety is responsible for writing up a report and emailing it to the Campus Fire Safety Department where the data is then entered into the log.

## Fire Safety Systems

All Fire Safety systems information is held on a database and maintained by the Campus Fire Safety Department. All residence halls have a fire alarm system that reports to a monitoring company or directly to the Middletown Fire Department. A portion of the wood frame properties have a sprinkler system and fire alarm system that is monitored, a complete list of those locations can be found in Campus Fire Safety department office. All other wood frame houses have local smoke detectors in all bedrooms and common spaces. All residential buildings have fire extinguishers in kitchen and mechanical spaces.

The following Residence Halls have monitored fire alarms and sprinkler systems:

Location Name	Location #	Address
Bennet Hall	35	Foss Hill Drive
Butterfield A	25	Lawn Avenue
Butterfield B	20	Huber Avenue
Butterfield C	50	Huber Avenue
Clark Hall	268	Church Street
Fauver Apartments	19	Foss Hill Drive
Foss 1 - Westco	18	Foss Hill Drive
Foss 2 - Westco	18	Foss Hill Drive
Foss 3 - Westco	18	Foss Hill Drive
Foss 4 - Westco	18	Foss Hill Drive
Foss 5 - Nicolson	57	Foss Hill Drive
Foss 6 - Nicolson	57	Foss Hill Drive
Foss 7 - Nicolson	57	Foss Hill Drive
Foss 8 - Hewitt	31	McConaughy Drive
Foss 9 - Hewitt	31	McConaughy Drive
Foss 10 - Hewitt	31	McConaughy Drive
	200	Church Street
High Rise	110	Church Street
Low Rise A	233	William Street
Low Rise B	233	William Street
Low Rise C	233	William Street
Low Rise D	233	William Street
Low Rise E	233	William Street

**Fire Statistics**
**Calendar Year: 2023**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
261 B Pine St	Stove top – due to dirty drip pan	0	0	\$0
36 B Brainerd Ave	Stove – owner’s manual left inside oven	0	0	\$0

**Calendar Year: 2022**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
88 Home Ave	Stove - cooking	0	0	\$700
115 B Cross St	Stove – towel on cook top	0	0	\$0
115 B cross St	Stove - cooking	0	0	\$700

**Calendar Year: 2021**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
Foss 9	Electrical fire in bathroom	0	0	\$2300
39 Brainerd	Stove - cooking	0	0	\$700
202 Washington	Stove - cooking	0	0	\$700
Fauver Apts	Microwave – cooking	0	0	\$0
Foss 3	Electrical fire in bathroom	0	0	\$1000
Low Rise A9	Stove – cooking	0	0	\$700

**Calendar Year: 2020**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
162 C Church	Stove – cooking	0	0	\$1,500.00
251 B Pine	Stove - cooking – Sprinkler activated	0	0	\$18,973.83
Foss 7 – Nicolson	Trash can (smoking) – Sprinkler activated	0	0	\$20,685.42

**Calendar Year: 2019**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
148 D Church St	Oven fire	0	0	\$800
56 Fountain Ave	Oven fire	0	0	\$900
41 Fountain Ave	Oven fire	0	0	\$800
64 Lawn Ave	Oven fire	0	0	\$200
264 B Court St	Stove fire	0	0	\$300
Clark Hall	Stove – fire	0	0	\$200

**Calendar Year: 2018**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Cause/Reason</b>	<b>Fire Related Deaths</b>	<b>Fire Related Injuries</b>	<b>Value of property damage</b>
57 Brainerd	Furnace Malfunction	0	0	\$2,500
200 Church St	Ash smoldering in trash	0	0	\$0
Program House – 65 Lawn Ave	Electrical Fire	0	0	\$33,421
66 Home Ave	Toaster fire	0	0	\$0
Butterfield C	Exterior back-up generator malfunction	0	0	\$3,000
Program House – 344 Washington St	Microwave fire	0	0	\$100
264 B Court St	Candle - small paper fire	0	0	\$0
Program House - 356 Washington St	Furnace fire	0	0	\$11,000
34 Fountain Ave	Oven fire	0	0	\$800

**Calendar Year: 2017**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Cause/Reason</b>	<b>Fire Related Deaths</b>	<b>Fire Related Injuries</b>	<b>Value of property damage</b>
Clark Hall	Student used lighter to warm food, container caught on fire	0	0	\$0
Fauver Apts	Candle that student had lit caught window dressing, mattress, and wall on fire	0	0	\$4,000
163 High St	Small stove fire due to cooking	0	0	\$500
163 High St	Incense that student had lit caught window shade on fire and personal items	0	0	\$300
182 Cross	Small stove fire due to cooking	0	0	\$500
Butterfield A	Small stove fire due to cooking	0	0	\$500

**Calendar Year: 2016**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Cause/Reason</b>	<b>Fire Related Deaths</b>	<b>Fire Related Injuries</b>	<b>Value of property damage</b>
102 Knowles	Small stove fire due to cooking	0	0	0
163 High St	Hood fan caught fire - cooking	0	0	\$150
11 Vine	Small stove fire due to cooking	0	0	0
Bennet Hall	Small trash can fire due to cigarette	0	0	0

**Calendar Year: 2015**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
Foss 9 - Hewitt	Electrical fire in bathroom	0	0	\$2000
170 Cross St	Hood fan caught fire	0	0	\$150
65 Lawn Ave	Microwave	0	0	\$50
102 Knowles Ave	Stove - dirty			
163 High St	Hood fan caught on fire	0	0	\$400

**Calendar Year: 2014**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
200 High St	Reckless burning	0	0	\$1,500
Butterfield B	Trash can fire due to cigarettes	0	0	\$0.00
84 Home Ave	Hood fan caught fire	0	0	\$150
267 C Court St	Plastic in stove	0	0	\$500
59 Pearl St	oven – dirty	0	0	\$150
142 Cross St	Halogen lamp	0	0	\$0.00

**Calendar Year: 2013**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
High Rise	Trash can fire due to cigarettes	0	0	\$0.00
269 B Pine St	Trash can fire due to cigarettes	0	0	\$0.00
269 A Pine St	Olive oil on stove caught on fire	0	0	\$0.00
107 Cross St	plastic on burner	0	0	\$0.00

**Calendar Year: 2012**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
High Rise	Hood fan caught fire	0	0	\$400
Bennet Hall	student lit papers on fire	0	0	\$300
273 Pine St	trash can - ash from smoking	0	0	\$0.00
Alpha Delt	student set small trash can on fire	0	0	\$0.00
58 Fountain Ave	Electrical - Stove	0	0	\$3,000

**Calendar Year: 2011**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
132 High St	Camping stove caught fire	0	0	\$0.00
230 Washington St	Stove fire	0	0	\$3,000

**Calendar Year: 2010**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
65 A Pearl St	electrical fire- ITS equipment	0	0	\$0.00
200 High St	trash container due to cigarette	0	0	\$0.00
344 Washington St	small flames - hot water heater	0	0	\$2,235
Fauver Apartments	Kitchen fire due to cooking oil	0	0	\$500

**Calendar Year: 2009**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
Clark Hall	dryer vent-walls caught fire in Laundry Rm	0	0	\$10,000
200 Church St	trash container due to cigarette	0	0	\$0.00
Foss 10 - Hewitt	Scarf thrown onto lamp	0	0	\$0.00
128 A Church St	Oil in pan caught on fire.	0	0	\$0.00
128 B Church St	Oil in pan caught on fire.	0	0	\$0.00
High Rise	Sticker left on new pan	0	0	\$0.00
High Rise	Put cardboard pizza box in oven	0	0	\$400
Foss 3 - Westco	Wood too close to vent fan caught fire	0	0	\$150
Low Rise C	plastic kettle put on stove caught fire	0	0	\$470

**Calendar Year: 2008**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
132 High St	Kettle left unattended on stove	0	0	\$0.00

**Calendar Year: 2007**

Location	Cause/Reason	Fire Related Deaths	Fire Related Injuries	Value of property damage
1 B Vine St	Potholder left on stove	0	0	\$400.00
42 Fountain Ave	cheese in toaster oven	0	0	\$0.00
Fauver Apartments	plastic on burner	0	0	\$0.00



1 C Vine St	Paper Fire from incense	0	0	\$0.00
15 Fountain Ave	Oven fire	0	0	\$0.00

**Plans for future improvements in fire safety.**

Wesleyan University will continue to upgrade and install more fire alarms and sprinkler systems on an annual basis. Ongoing fire safety education will be provided to students, faculty and staff by the Campus Fire Safety Department as well as the Middletown Fire Department. Wesleyan will also continue to offer ongoing training opportunities to the MFD with use the use of our buildings.