



Annual Fire Safety Report 2015



EHS

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PHONE NUMBERS

Calls to the emergency numbers listed below are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Fire, Medical or Criminal	911
University Police (non-emergency)	962-2222

Calls below are answered 8am-5pm Monday-Friday

UNCW Environmental Health & Safety	962-3057
UNCW Housing & Residence Life	962-3241

CONTACT US

Please visit, call, or write us!

UNCW
Environmental Health & Safety
601 S. College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403-5974
Tel. (910) 962-3057
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E-mail: SafetyTips@uncw.edu
hartss@uncw.edu

Website: <http://www.uncw.edu/ba/safety>



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT WILMINGTON

October 1, 2015

Students and Parents:

The University of North Carolina Wilmington is committed to providing our students a safe and secure environment, where they can pursue their journey of learning in our beautiful coastal setting. Part of this is that our staff work to provide resident students with an on campus “home away from home” that is as safe as possible from the threat of fire and other hazards.

This 2015 UNCW Campus Fire Safety Report outlines fire protection systems, policies and procedures that apply to residence hall fire safety, as well as educational efforts concerning fire safety. It also includes a log of fire events within residential facilities on our campus. It is our effort to learn from each event that occurs, no matter how small, so we may further refine and revise our policies, procedures and educational efforts to prevent a similar event from recurring.

UNCW works hard every day to foster a culture of campus safety for our faculty, staff and students. Data collected nationally indicates that deaths and injuries due to fire on college campuses is many times lower than the risk in off campus properties. This is in great part due to the education, fire safe construction and safety controls that UNCW and other universities have in place to protect students. Fire safety is just one of the many areas in which Environmental Health & Safety collaborates with campus departments, in a concerted and dedicated effort to protect students on and off campus.

Thank you for choosing UNCW and we look forward to assisting you throughout your academic career. Please contact us if you have questions about this report or other safety concerns.

Sincerely,

Stan H. Harts
Director, Environmental Health & Safety

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY (EH&S)

601 SOUTH COLLEGE ROAD · WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-5974 · (910) 962-3108 · FAX (910) 962-3473

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY REPORTING

Regulations under the Higher Education Opportunity and Affordability Act, requires fire safety reporting for on-campus housing facilities at all colleges and universities. These reports serve to introduce and increase fire safety awareness on college and university campuses across the nation by providing students and their families with the fire safety information they need. This report parallels University Police Department efforts in crime prevention. If you are interested in the 2015 UNCW Campus Crime & Security Report, click [here](#). In response to this legislation UNCW has developed the following report that exceeds the regulatory requirements.

Please take time to review our statistics and fire safety information. Let us know if you have any questions in regards to fire safety by contacting us at 910-962-3057 or SafetyTips@uncw.edu.

BUILDING FIRE SYSTEM DESCRIPTIONS

All UNCW residence halls have automatic smoke detection systems that immediately notify emergency responders when an alarm is activated. These devices are “supervised” which means that if the device is tampered with or power is interrupted to the system, it will also notify emergency responders. Additionally, all residence halls have automatic fire sprinkler systems installed. There are over 1,900 fire extinguishers installed on campus, with more than 900 of them located in residence halls. These are inspected monthly and maintained annually. Below is a detailed summary of the fire protection systems in each residence hall.

University Apartments: These wood frame structures were constructed in the early 1980s and have been renovated to improve the fire detection, suppression and evacuation routes. They are equipped with a sprinkler system, smoke detectors in each sleeping area as well as common areas, with the exception that only common areas have detectors in Apartments D and K as a fire protection sprinkler was added to these under different code requirements. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site, and is monitored 24 hours a day. There are fire extinguishers in the kitchens of each suite.



Belk Hall: Belk was constructed in the mid-1970s of non-combustible materials and was renovated to improve fire alarm and suppression systems. It is equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area as well as common areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the residence hall and fire department standpipes are located in the stairwells. Secondary exits, such as the side and rear doors, have delayed egress doors connected to the fire alarm system.

Cornerstone Hall: Cornerstone Hall was constructed in 2003 and is built of non-combustible materials and is equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area and common areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the residence hall and fire department standpipes are located in the stairwells. Additionally there are smoke doors installed that close upon activation of the fire alarm to preclude the rapid advance of smoke and fire. Secondary exits such as the side and rear doors have delayed egress doors connected to the fire alarm system.

Galloway Hall: Galloway Hall was built in the early 1970s and is constructed of non-combustible materials. It has undergone several renovations to improve the fire detection and suppression systems as well as the egress pathways. It is equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area and common areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the residence hall and fire department standpipes are located in the stairwells. Secondary exits and the stairwells have delayed egress doors connected to the fire alarm system.

Graham / Hewlett Halls: Graham and Hewlett Halls were constructed in the late 1970s of non-combustible materials. They have been renovated several times to improve the fire detection and suppression systems and are equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area as well as common areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the residence hall and fire department standpipes are located in the stairwells. Additionally there are smoke doors installed in the connector building that close upon activation of the fire alarm to preclude the rapid advance of smoke and fire. Secondary exits, such as the rear and stairwell doors have delayed egress doors connected to the fire alarm system.

Honors House: Honors House was constructed in the mid-1990s and is constructed of non-combustible materials and is equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area and common areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the residence hall and fire department standpipes are located in the stairwells. Additionally there are smoke doors installed that close upon activation of the fire alarm to preclude the rapid advance of smoke and fire. Secondary exits on the rear and at the stairwells have delayed egress doors connected to the fire alarm system.

International House: International House was constructed in the mid-1990s and is constructed of non-combustible materials and is equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area and common areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the residence hall and fire department standpipes are located in the stairwells. Additionally there are smoke doors installed that close upon activation of the fire alarm to preclude the rapid advance of smoke and fire. Secondary exits on the rear and at the stairwells have delayed egress doors connected to the fire alarm system.

Schwartz Hall: Schwartz, which was built in 1985, is constructed of non-combustible materials and is equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area and common and mechanical areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Three fire extinguishers are located on each floor and fire department standpipes are located for hose connections in each of the three stairwells that offer egress. Additionally, there are smoke doors installed that close upon activation of the fire alarms system. Stairwell exit doors are delayed egress doors connected to the fire alarm system.

Seahawk Crossing: Seahawk Crossing was built in 2009 and consists of wood frame constructed buildings equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area and common areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the residence hall and fire department standpipes are located in the stairwells. Range hoods in common areas also have automatic fire suppression systems. Additionally, there are smoke doors installed that close upon activation of the fire alarm to preclude the rapid advance of smoke and fire.

Seahawk Landing: Seahawk Landing was built in 2007 and consists of wood frame constructed buildings equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area and common areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the residence hall and fire department standpipes are located in the stairwells.

Seahawk Village: Seahawk Village was built in 2006 and consists of wood frame constructed buildings equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area and common areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the residence hall and fire department standpipes are located in the stairwells.

University Suites: Suites O-U are constructed of non-combustible materials and are equipped with a sprinkler system throughout as well as smoke detectors in each sleeping area and common and mechanical areas. The smoke detectors are connected to a supervised fire alarm control panel that reports off site. Fire extinguishers are located in the kitchens of each suite.

TAMPERING WITH FIRE SYSTEMS

Firefighting, detection and alarm equipment is provided for the protection of all residents. Misuse of, or tampering with, this equipment is a violation of university regulations and state criminal statutes. Below are references to the *UNCW Code of Student Life, Guide for On Campus Living* as well as other websites that apply to tampering with these systems. All cases of persons tampering with fire alarm systems are taken seriously and are routed through the campus conduct system. This may result in sanctions taken by the campus conduct board such as warnings, educational experiences, immediate termination of the housing rental agreement, or referral to criminal justice system where criminal fines and/or imprisonment could occur.

Additionally, it is a violation of North Carolina State Law to tamper with fire protection systems. Below is a link to **North Carolina General Statute 14-286**

http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/enactedlegislation/statutes/pdf/bysection/chapter_14/gs_14-286.pdf

FIRE EXIT DRILLS

Fire exit drills are conducted four times each year cooperatively between Environmental Health & Safety and Housing & Residence Life. The purpose of these drills is to educate residents of fire exit procedures and familiarize them with the building exits and fire protection systems.

During these drills, University Police is notified of the time and location, the alarm is activated and residents timed to determine how long it takes to evacuate the building. Activation of the off-site notification is confirmed and is reset. Staff is placed at all exits and residents are routed to a central location. After all persons are out of the building they are given an educational briefing of the purpose of the drill and building specific considerations. Logs of these fire exit drills including date, time, and number of persons evacuated and other comments are maintained by Environmental Health & Safety.

During fire drills residents should:[FC1]

- When instructed, either by fire alarm or other alert notification method, calmly evacuate the building.
- Retreat to a safe place outside of the building, preferably 300 to 500 feet away. When possible, pre-determine a place where you and your classmates will meet.
- Remain in this location until everyone is accounted for. Notify emergency responders if you think someone may be trapped.
- Do not re-enter the building until emergency personnel determine it is safe

Participation in fire drills is mandatory and failure to evacuate the building during a fire alarm will result in disciplinary action.

Residents are encouraged to discuss fire evacuation procedures with their room/suitemates or Resident Advisor. Floor plans of residence halls are available [here](#).

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Residence Hall Staff receive comprehensive fire and emergency training prior to the start of every fall semester. Topics include a review of the fire prevention policies, weather safety, followed by a hands-on fire extinguisher demonstration, and an emergency evacuation exercise and educational opportunities.

Fire safety training programs are also provided to other student, staff, and faculty groups on campus by request. Environmental Health & Safety partners with Wilmington Fire Department during numerous educational programs in the residence halls. EH&S staff serve on the board of Life and Safety Education Resources (LASER), a local non-profit that is dedicated to fire and life safety. These programs typically consist of a community building event such as a cooking demonstration, a review of fire prevention and evacuation procedures followed by a hands-on fire extinguisher demonstration. Bulletin Board kits and PowerPoint presentations are provided to Resident Advisors as a tool to educate their residents.

UNCW FIRE SAFETY POLICIES AND RULES

Several fire prevention policies and procedures have been developed and implemented in effort to complement other aspects of the fire safety program at UNCW.

While educational programs and information are located both in Environmental Health & Safety and Housing & Residence Life, fire safety regulations inside the residence halls are located almost exclusively within the Housing and Residence Life website and publications. Below are links to the various sites:

Code of Student Life <http://www.uncw.edu/odos/documents/cosl-current.pdf>

Page 23 Offenses

Page 26 Section II-2 Initiation of Disciplinary Proceedings and Administrative Disposition

Guide for On Campus Living <http://uncw.edu/stuaff/housing/gfocl/rulesregs.html>

FIRE SAFETY

<http://www.uncw.edu/ehs/ResidenceHall.html>

<http://www.uncw.edu/ehs/fire.html>

SMOKING

The buildings on the University of North Carolina Wilmington campus are smoke-free; this applies to all academic, student support and residential buildings. This means that smoking is not permitted in buildings at any time, including the use of electronic smoking devices (e-cigs). Further, there is a 25 ft. no smoking zone at all residence hall entrances. Violators of the smoke-free guidelines will be held accountable for their actions in the student conduct system. Students found in violation of this policy will be fined at least \$25.00 for their first instance and at least \$50.00 for each subsequent violation. Smoking is allowed outside; however butts should be extinguished properly in receptacles and not near combustible landscaping materials.

DECORATIONS

Decorating your room is a way to express your personality and individuality. There are, however, certain restrictions that apply that protect everyone:

- Use of extension cords are only allowed if only one item is plugged into them. If they are used, they must be UL-approved and be of an adequate wire gauge for the intended use.
- Frayed or broken cords should not be used.
- Electrical cords, telephone or data wires (light strings or extension cords) should not be routed through doorways or across walkways. This creates a trip hazard in the fire exit pathway.
- Do not plug cords and lights into an overloaded circuit. Multi-plug adapters are prohibited in university buildings. Use power strips with a fuse or integral circuit breaker. These typically have a reset switch or button on them.
- Candles, incense, oil lamps, tiki torches, etc., are not permitted in any on-campus residence or the areas surrounding the residence halls.
- Walls of any Residence Life area may not be covered by cardboard and no wall may have more than 50% of its total area covered by any material including paper, fabric, metal, etc. Ceilings must not be covered.
- Halogen lamps are not allowed in the residence halls. Halogen lamps burn up to 10 times hotter than an ordinary light bulb, causing a potential fire hazard.
- Cords, or other decorations should not be hung from, attached to, or obscure fire and life safety systems such as smoke detectors, sprinklers, pull stations and exit signs.
- Live Christmas trees are not permitted in student rooms.

APPLIANCES

Portable electric appliances are allowed in residence halls with the following exceptions:

- Halogen lamps; the temperature reached by the bulbs constitute a fire hazard and a potential source of burns.
- Space heaters are prohibited.
- Homemade extension cords or electrical appliances are prohibited.
- Candles (including decorative candles with or without wicks, incense, oil lamps or other devices capable of open flame) are prohibited.
- Ceiling fans or track lighting that are not university installed.
- As a general rule, microwaves are the only cooking appliances allowed in student rooms.

The following items are allowed in kitchens only:

- George Foreman type grills
- Deep fryers
- Electric skillets/griddles
- Oil popcorn poppers
- Toasters, toaster ovens, or any other electrical appliance with open coils or flames

OTHER FIRE SAFETY RULES

- Storage of hazardous materials is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid, propane, oxygen; chemicals and gas grills.
- Residents in the University Apartments and the University Suites should store nothing, including bicycles, under any stairwell.
- Grills, smokers, charcoal, lighter fluid, and gas tanks, etc. cannot be stored in any residential area on university-owned property. Grills may be used at least 15 feet from all buildings and combustible materials. Use of the public grilling units provided is encouraged.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

Environmental Health & Safety always seeks out opportunities for improvement and has identified the following areas of improvement over the next 12-24 months.

- Continued efforts to increase the number of students that attend fire safety programming, including integration and coordination with Wilmington Fire Department education efforts including demonstrations and hands on exercises.
- Reduction in the number of nuisance fire alarms due to cooking by periodically holding “cooking safely” programs and videos conducted cooperatively between UNCW EH&S, UPD and Wilmington Fire Department. Additional recordkeeping and analysis is being undertaken to identify common themes that may reduce the nuisance fire alarms.

- Working with Wilmington Fire Department to create new fire safety videos through grant opportunities.
- Increased use of digital signage in the residence halls to educate students with regard to fire prevention.
- The design and installation of a state of the art fire alarm central reporting station has begun and will provide greater reliability and redundancy in the system, particularly during outages.

2015 FIRE LOG

A log is maintained by Environmental Health & Safety and is updated continuously throughout the year. To review the 2014 log, contact Environmental Health & Safety. The log for 2015 is attached on the following page. Note that not all nuisance fire alarms are included in this log only those where death, injury or property damage occurred. Additionally, this log includes only residential facilities on campus.

There were two reportable fire events in UNCW residence halls during the reporting period. The first was a small residential kitchen grease fire that resulted in damage to the stove unit. The second was a small grease fire in a residential kitchen that resulted in a resident burning her arm due to the fact that she tried to take the burning pan outside.

During the reporting period however, there were numerous nuisance alarms that are typically caused by cooking. Cooking alarms accounted for more than 60% of all nuisance alarms in residential housing. Secondary causes were mechanical or detector end of life related.

UNCW Fire Statistics Student Housing 2015

Date Reported	Date of Fire	Time	Room	Fire Dept. Response	Building Name	Street Address	Dollars Lost	Reported by	Type Fire
9/16/2014	9/16/2014	6:00 pm	201-206	Yes	University Suite U	5238 Suite Service Loop	\$0.00	University Police	Grease Fire
3/21/2015	3/21/2015	1:08 am	101-104	Yes	Apartment E	5008 Lionfish Drive	\$500.00	University Police	Grease Fire

About UNCW Environmental Health & Safety

In addition to fire safety, the UNCW Environmental Health & Safety Department is the department responsible for a variety of safety and related programs throughout the UNCW community. Our responsibilities include Workplace Safety, Fire Safety, Emergency Management, Laboratory Safety, Health and Sanitation, Sustainability and Environmental and Safety Compliance.

UNCW EH&S has engaged in an innovative series of short videos that helps to educate students on a variety of safety issues. The fire safety video includes information on prohibited items, evacuation procedures, fire alarm activation and fire extinguisher usage.

The following is a link to these videos: <http://uncw.edu/ehs/index.html>

Additionally, UNCW and the Wilmington Fire Department work very closely together in planning, response and education efforts. Several years ago, we entered into a Memorandum of Understanding where we formally agreed to commit our combined resources to efforts. This allows us to be more efficient and effective in our efforts and reach larger audiences. Through such an exemplary relationship between our agencies, UNCW students, faculty and staff are afforded a greater degree of protection.

We are granted authority by the Chancellor as outlined in the following policy:

http://www.uncw.edu/policies/documents/05_600_EHandSPolicy_5Feb2010.pdf

Our highly educated, well trained and experienced staff of eleven full time employees helps to make UNCW a safe place to live and work.

Our mission is to lead the university to a safe, healthy, sustainable and disaster resilient culture by providing educational, technical and operational services to support the UNCW community.

We hope that you have found this report informative and if you have questions or if we may assist you in any way, please contact us.