

## Important Fire Safety Information

**Smoking:** One of the leading causes of fire deaths in Ontario is careless smoking. Never smoke when you are tired or in bed. Use deep, non-combustible ashtrays and empty into non-combustible containers such as a coffee tin and allow to cool for at least 24hrs prior to throwing out. Always check seat cushions and floors for cigarette butts prior to leaving the house or going to bed.



**Cooking:** Cooking fires are one of the leading causes of house fires in Ontario. Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen, turn off the appliance. Always keep a large lid near the stove when you are cooking and if the pot catches fire, slide the lid over the pot and turn off the stove. Learn how to use the portable fire extinguisher located in your residence so that if needed, you are prepared.



**Electrical:** Standard electrical circuits are protected by a 15amp over-current device, such as a fuse or circuit breaker. Replacing these with one of larger amperage will overload and subsequently over heat the wiring which could cause a fire. Many older homes may not have sufficient circuits to handle the amount of electronic equipment such as computers, stereo's and microwaves that are found in many residences. In these cases, there will be a tendency to use extension cords as permanent wiring. This practice is a violation under the Ontario Fire Code. Physical damage can occur to the insulation on extension cords running under furniture and carpets causing not only a shock hazard, but also a fire hazard. Extension cords that are coiled up may overheat, also causing a potential fire.



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**Alcohol:** The consumption of alcohol combined with smoking or cooking can lead to tragic results. Alcohol can impair your judgment and reduce your ability to react in a fire emergency.



**Candles:** The popularity of candles has increased dramatically over the past number of years and so has the number of fires caused by candles. Never leave a candle unattended for any reason. Always place the candle on a solid, level surface, away from windows and all combustible materials including drapes and curtains.



**Fire Extinguishers:** Fire extinguishers are designed and intended to be used on small fires in their early stage. Most fire extinguishers found in student residences are a multi-purpose type, capable of extinguishing fires involving ordinary combustibles (Class A), oil and grease (Class B) and energized electrical equipment (Class C).



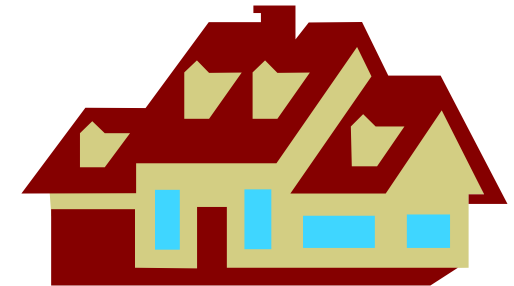
**Smoke Alarms:** Smoke alarms provide you with the earliest possible warning of fire but only if they are properly installed and maintained. Test your smoke alarms on a monthly basis. Any problems with the operation of the smoke alarms are to be brought to the attention of your landlord.



Although not required by law, it is recommended that you install a carbon monoxide detector outside of the sleeping areas in your residence. Talk to your landlord about purchasing one.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding fire safety in your residence, contact Hamilton Emergency Services – Fire, Fire Prevention Division at (905) 546-2424 ext. 1380 weekdays between 8:30am and 4:30pm. Additional information can also be found on our web-site at <http://www.hamilton.ca/Fire>  
e-mail address: [fire\\_department@hamilton.ca](mailto:fire_department@hamilton.ca) rev 09/07

# FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN OFF – CAMPUS HOUSING



For any emergency  
In Hamilton dial

# 911

## Fire Safety is a Shared Responsibility



For many students, attending College or University also involves a move to a new City and the search for affordable housing off campus. While affordability may be a key issue in determining where you will live, another consideration that must be paramount in the minds of both students and their families is fire safety.

Property owners, students, parents and Hamilton Emergency Services all share a responsibility to ensure that homes utilized for off campus housing by students are in compliance with all applicable fire safety regulations.

For many students, planning ahead for fire safety may be secondary to other issues such as studying, parties and part-time work. Many young adults believe that fires are not something that will happen to them; therefore they may not take the time to consider the potential risks of living in a home that does not comply with basic fire safety requirements.

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, along with the Ontario Fire Code regulate fire safety requirements for all occupancies, including student housing. Hamilton Emergency Services – Fire conduct inspections in all premises occupied as student housing on a complaint basis.

Take the time to read this brochure. Understand the different types of occupancies that are utilized for off campus housing and the fire safety requirements for those buildings. Understand the potential risks of fire and what steps you can take to prevent a fire from occurring.

## Types of Residential Occupancies and Fire Safety Requirements

### Single Family Dwellings (Can Include a Group of Students Living in a Home)



If not more than four students are living in a home as a single housekeeping unit the occupancy is classified as a single family dwelling. The Ontario Fire Code requires that an operational smoke alarm (battery operated is acceptable) be installed on each floor level of the home and outside of each sleeping area.

If a group of five or more students are living in a home, the home could be classified as either a single family home or a lodging house. That determination would be based on whether the owner or the occupants have the largest degree of control over the use of the house and property. An in-depth investigation examining various factors will be conducted by an Inspector from Hamilton Emergency Services – Fire.

### Boarding, Rooming and Lodging Houses

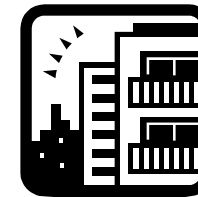


If a group of five or more persons (including students) live independently of each other in a residence and the building owner of that residence exercises a large degree of control over the home, the occupancy is classified as a lodging house. A lodging house will also have common washroom and kitchen facilities for the use of all residents. Lodging houses are typically required to be licenced by the City of Hamilton, a process that would initiate inspection activities by various municipal enforcement agencies. The building is required to have as a minimum, an interconnected alternating current smoke alarm system with one smoke alarm on each floor level, a 45mm (1 3/4") solid core wood door on

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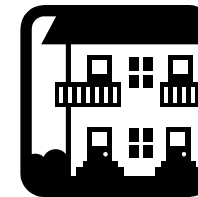
each bedroom and a minimum 5BC rated portable fire extinguisher in each kitchen. Additional fire safety requirements will include but are not limited to fire separations of exits and dwelling units, proper exits (number and location) and emergency procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency

### Apartments (Low-rise and High-rise Buildings)



The Ontario Fire Code regulates fire safety requirements in both low-rise and high-rise residential buildings. Each apartment unit must be equipped with an operational AC or DC powered smoke alarm outside of the sleeping areas. Additional fire safety requirements will include but are not limited to fire separations of exits and dwelling units, exits; including number of and location of, alarm and detection systems in common areas of the building and emergency procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.

### Duplexes (Two-Family Dwellings)



The Ontario Fire Code regulates minimum provisions for fire safety in existing residential buildings (in detached homes, semi-detached homes or row houses), which contain two existing dwelling units operated as individual housekeeping units. Each dwelling unit must be equipped with an operational AC or DC powered smoke alarm outside of the sleeping area. Additional fire safety requirements will include but are not limited to fire separations of exits and dwelling units, exits (including number of and location of) and a specific requirement for the building's electrical system to be inspected and approved by the Electrical Safety Authority.