

Environmental Health & Safety

Student Housing Fire Safety

Welcome to your new home away from home in Augusta University student housing. With this home comes a great responsibility. Protecting the life and possessions of you and all your fellow students depends on your actions, **EVERY DAY**. Around the nation there have been several student housing fires and emergencies where careless actions have tragically cost students their lives. The information provided in this brochure outlines housing fire safety policy but, much more than that, gives you the opportunity to educate yourself about and eliminate the major causes of fire disaster in student housing. **YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO SAFE!**

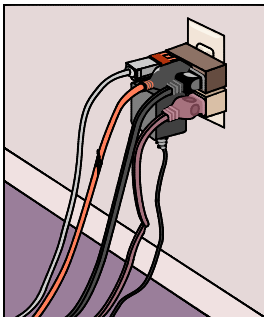
SMOKING:

No "butts" about it. If you're careless, you'll light up more than just your cigarette. **DANGERS:** falling asleep while smoking, flicking ashes on furniture or rugs, disposing of smoking materials in paper or plastic cups or other combustible containers. All can cause fires. **Smoking is not permitted in Augusta University apartments or rooms.**



FURNISHINGS:

Apartments and rooms are required to have as low a combustible load as practicable. This means self renovations such as adding wood paneling to walls and constructing wooden furniture or furnishings are not allowed. Prior to any installation, consult the Housing Office (721-3471).



ELECTRICAL/SURGE PROTECTORS:

Outlet extenders and permanent extension cords are not allowed. Proper surge protectors are safer. All surge protectors are required to be maintained off the floor to keep the cords or housing from being damaged.

STORAGE:

Improper storage of any materials is a serious violation of state fire codes. Storage is not allowed in HVAC closets or stairwells. Items blocking electrical panels or doors is also a state fire code violation.

CANDLES:

They set a mood, but they can be lethal. **Candles are not allowed at any time** in student housing or other Augusta University Buildings.

DECORATIONS:

Paper decorations on doors, ceilings, or walls, and live Christmas trees anywhere are not allowed. They all make rooms look nice, but are fuel for fire. Burning decorations can block your exit or fall on you and other combustibles. Live Christmas trees can ignite like match sticks.



APPLIANCES:



Each appliance is designed for a specific use and a specific location. Misuse of appliances can cause overheating of those appliances or combustible materials nearby, which can start a fire. Space heaters are not allowed. See the Pathways to Residence Hall Living guidebook for permitted appliances.

UNATTENDED COOKING:

Many students have tried this and the end result was burning more than just their food. Kitchen facilities are provided for your convenience. The top cause of fire and nuisance alarm activations in housing buildings is cooking left unattended. **Hot plates are not allowed.**

PRANKS:

Playing with fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, or door closers is playing with fire. Discharging or damaging extinguishers can leave you and your friends defenseless if a fire starts. Damaging smoke detectors or removing batteries can leave you vulnerable to fire. Removing or disabling required door closers can let fire spread into exit corridors. Vandalism of safety equipment is a violation of your housing agreement and may lead to eviction from Augusta University student housing.



FOR YOUR SAFETY:

1. Do not smoke in-doors, especially in bed or while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
2. Locate fire exits from your unit or floor.
3. Count the number of doors to the nearest exit, and check for any possible obstructions.
4. Locate fire alarm pull stations or emergency/security telephones nearest your unit.
5. Locate the nearest fire extinguisher.
6. Check any windows to see if they can be opened; if so determine how they open.
7. Keep the public safety division's ext. Number, **721-2911**, next to the phone.

IN CASE OF FIRE:

1. Do not panic; remain calm.
2. Remove persons in immediate danger of the fire. If not already closed, close door to room affected.
3. If room is smoky, get on hands and knees (or stomach) and crawl to door.
4. Feel door knob; if hot do not open door; if cool, open door slowly.
5. If hallway is smoky, stay next to the wall and count the doors as you crawl to exit.
6. Activate the nearest fire alarm box and call the Public Safety Division at 721-2911. Give the location and kind of fire.
7. Calmly notify other occupants in the area.
8. Do not prop open doors to exit stairways.
9. If possible, attempt to extinguish the fire with the fire extinguisher provided in your area.
10. Once out of the area, do not return to the building for any reason.

EMERGENCIES: 721-2911
EH&S Fire Safety Office: 721-2663
Augusta University Student Housing
Office: 721-3471