

# National Fire Prevention Week

October 3-9, 2004

Fires, on college and university campuses, claim lives and cause extensive and expensive property damage. Annually across the nation, approximately 1500 fires are reported each year in student dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses, causing \$9 million in damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Scores of people have died in the past two decades in dozens of fatal fire incidents on American college and university campuses. Stanford University maintains a high level of fire protection by installing automatic fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems in academic and student housing facilities. However, building occupants can go a long way in preventing fires from ever beginning. If a fire does occur, building occupants must react immediately when a fire alarm sounds. Once a fire starts, there's no time to develop a plan. Every one should know how to evacuate and where to assemble. The following fire safety tips are for everyone on campus to follow.

## **Preventing Fires:**

### **Common reasons for fires & false alarms:**

Cooking left unattended on the stovetop.  
High temperature halogen lamps fall over.  
Candles burn out of control.  
Accidentally activating the fire pull station.  
Smoke from the fireplace.  
Smoking.  
Party decorations catch on fire.

### **Take these steps to prevent fires:**

Stay with your cooking, or turn off the stove.  
Halogen bulbs NOT permitted; choose stable lamps.  
Sorry, NO open flames or candles in dormitories.  
No horsing around in the corridors or hallways.  
Check and open the damper before lighting a fire.  
Do not smoke in University buildings.  
Use flame retardant decorations and consult with the Fire Marshall in planning events.

### **Storage:**

**Do not block** corridors, hallways, stairways or exit doors with boxes, furniture, or bikes.  
**Do not hang** anything from sprinkler heads or pipes.  
**Do not store** combustibles in mechanical or electrical equipment rooms.

### **Electrical Outlets:**

**Don't overload** your electrical outlets.  
**Use Power strips** and surge protectors with circuit breakers (UL approved)  
**Do not "daisy chain"** one power strip into another.  
**Use only one** strip/protector plugged into dual outlet.  
**Replace** broken appliances and/or frayed wiring.  
**Use only approved** 3 wire grounded extension cords and only for temporary, not permanent, use.  
**Allow space heaters** enough space, and turn off when unattended.

## **Remember**

Preventing uncontrolled fires is the first step in fire safety. Consult with your Residential Assistant and the Stanford Fire Marshal's Office at 723-0448 for more information on fire safety.