



QUESTIONS PARENTS AND STUDENTS SHOULD ASK

There are several questions parents and students can inquire of a school to discern the level of safety and preparedness by simply asking informed questions.

A safe school will share these answers with pride.

- How are the fire incidents on your campus? Are the incidents usually accidental or intentional? Do you follow up with public education and informing students of how to prevent these events in the future? How do you handle fire investigation and an identified fire-setter in the school community?
- Which buildings are protected with an automatic fire sprinkler system? Are sprinklers included in every new-construction project and renovation? Are all residential buildings equipped with sprinklers? Are labs and other high risk areas protected (such as art rooms, kitchens, mechanical areas or shops with heavy equipment)?
- Does your college or university have a system for the security and accountability and safe storage of chemical, biological or radioactive materials (as applicable) with the information available 24-7?
- Does every student's room have a smoke alarm? Does it send a signal to campus security or the fire department? What is the power supply to the detector? (hardwired/ battery/ both) Are batteries changed when clocks are changed? Who provides the battery replacements?
- Are false alarms a problem in the residence halls? If not, what practices have given you this success? If they are, what steps are being taken to correct the situation?

THE CENTER FOR CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY

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- What is the school's disciplinary policy towards students that cause false alarms or fail to evacuate during an alarm?
- Is your alarm system tied into local first responders so the fire department IMMEDIATELY notified of ALL incidents on campus?
- Is smoking allowed anywhere on campus? What are the penalties for violation?
- What items such as candles and Halogen lamps are prohibited in the residence halls?
- What are the acceptable small appliances to bring to school? Do the dorm rooms have enough outlets with enough power to feed energy need? Are there recommended limits or specific certified products that are safer to use?
- What is the training on fire prevention and comprehensive life safety does the residence hall staff receive and how often are they refreshed?
- How often do students get exposure to fire and life safety training such as fire extinguisher training?
- How often are evacuation drills conducted? What other types of exercises does the school conduct regarding emergency planning and preparedness?
- Is the campus involved/considered in the local/regional evacuation planning or incident planning?
- Who are the members of the campus emergency management team and what are their responsibilities?
- What can I do to prepare my child to be fire safe on campus?

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