

History of Campus Fire Safety

On January 19, 2000 three students were killed and 62 students and firefighters were injured when a fire erupted at Seton Hall University. This fire, originally lit as a prank, proved to be one of the deadliest college fires in recent history, as three couches in a 3rd floor lounge approached 1500 degrees F in less than 5 minutes.

In this tragedy's aftermath, then NYS Governor George Pataki created a Task Force on Campus Fire Safety in February 2000. The result of this task force today is annual wall-to-wall fire inspections of all NYS colleges and universities, with the assistance of the NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control (OFPC).

Hamilton College is committed to fire safety as a priority in student residences and other campus facilities. As evidence of that commitment, 100% of Hamilton's on-campus residential facilities are sprinklered. However, no fire alarm, detection or suppression system can 100% guarantee that a Seton Hall-like tragedy will not occur here, as most OFPC violations tend to be behavioral in nature. While there are a number of College departments charged with administering Hamilton's fire safety programs, all students and employees must **DO THEIR PART** and abide by this Fire Safety Notice.

Best Practices & Recommendations



Power Strips

- Use power strips instead of extension cords, which will “trip” in the event of a power surge.
- But be sure to never “piggy-back” such devices, one to another.

Residential Door Signage/Maps

- Read and understand the information contained on the door signage/maps interior to all student rooms on campus.
- This includes the steps to take in a fire emergency, evacuation routes/egress paths, initial gathering points, and assembly points.

Fire Extinguishers

- These devices are staged in various points throughout campus.
- But extinguishers are **not** intended to enable “fire fighting”, especially by those not formally trained in their use.
- If you would like to be trained in fire extinguisher use, please contact Fran Manfredo or Brian Hansen.



Hamilton

Student Fire Safety Notice

Emergency Phone Numbers

Campus Safety	x4000
Residential Life	x4023
Student Health Services	x4111
HCEMS	x4000
Env. Protection & Safety	x4647
Physical Plant	x4500

Note—This document is not inclusive of all fire safety programs at Hamilton College. Please see this website for additional information: <http://www.hamilton.edu/college/EPS/firesafety.html>

Prohibited Items, Actions & Nevers...

No Combustible Wall Hangings or Tapestries

•These typically include cloth or plastic materials suspended along walls, ceilings, window openings or closets.

- Most common examples include flags, tie-dye fabrics, beer banners and curtains.
- The only acceptable wall hangings include paper posters, and the otherwise prohibited materials from above which are either chemically treated with fire retardant (with documentation to prove it) or contained within glass/plexi-glass framing.



No Light Duty Household Extension (or Zip) Cords

•These devices are only suitable for non-commercial/household use, and are **not** permitted on campus at any time.



No Multi-Plug Adapters

•Again, these devices are only suitable for non-commercial/household use, and are **not** permitted on campus at any time.

Other Generally Banned Items

- Holiday Lights
- Halogen Lamps, Lava Lamps, Heat Lamps
- Candles/Incense
- Electric Blankets
- Natural Christmas Trees
- Space Heaters or Air Conditioners



Multi-Colored Lamps

- These lamps are typically UL listed for a maximum of 40-60 watts per bulb (ratings usually found on shade label).
- Ensure your bulbs do **not** exceed these listings to prevent an electrical fire.

Storage Issues

- The storage of personal property (shoes, laundry, athletic equipment), or other college owned materials (dorm furniture, bedding), is **not** permitted outside of your assigned sleeping/living quarters or suite.
- The staging of such materials in hallways or other emergency egress corridors are fire safety violations.



Smoking

•By the NYS Indoor Air Quality Act, smoking is **prohibited** in all College buildings and facilities.

- As a further courtesy, smokers should stay at least 20 feet from any building entrance or air intake manifold.

Gas/Charcoal Grills

- Gas/charcoal grills must maintain a 10 foot distance from residential buildings while in use.
- Propane tanks may never be stored indoors, but up to 1 bag of charcoal may be stored in dry, indoor locations.



Never tamper with or otherwise obstruct fire safety equipment installed in your building, such as:

- Smoke/heat detectors;
- Sprinkler heads/piping;
- Fire extinguishers;
- Fire/smoke doors;
- Fire alarm panels;
- Pull stations; or
- Exit/egress signage.

Corrective Actions

All student rooms are subject to regular Health & Safety inspections by the Res Life Office, as well as the annual OFPC fire inspection (set for late September). Dependent upon the nature and severity of any fire safety related violations discovered during the course of an inspection, corrective actions that may be levied upon the responsible party(ies) include, but are not limited to, additional instruction, on-the-spot confiscation or disciplinary action (including points).