

## First Year Experience Fire Safety Information

Fire safety and awareness at the university level is a vast departure from a student's previous experience and exposure. We are all taught the basics of fire safety in grade school, like how to line up single file for fire drills and not to collect combustibles, but there is very little fire safety education follow-up until we enter college. We are suddenly responsible, along with hundreds of others in a residence hall, to be responsible for our own and each other's fire/life safety. **In the event of a fire, report the fire to Safety and Security (375-2525) or call 911, pull a fire alarm pull station, and exit the building calmly.** Unlike the home or previous school environment, when fire alarms sound on campus, it involves all the occupants of the building, Residence Life Staff, Safety and Security Department, Fire Department and Police.

## Campus Fire Safety Equipment

In the residence halls and throughout campus, there are seemingly an overabundance of smoke detectors, pull stations, exit signs, fire extinguishers, and sprinkler components. These are all necessary for continued life safety in all areas of campus. **Please report to 716-375-2525 anything missing or unusual.** Easy access to these devices may tempt some to tamper with devices, but nothing is taken more seriously in modern times on a college campus. Recent laws have been enacted allowing those who tamper with fire/life safety devices or pull false alarms to be charged with a felony in New York State. **Fire extinguishers are for use by the Fire Department or Safety and Security personnel only.** In case of an actual fire, students should sound the alarm and evacuate the building, protecting themselves at all times.

## Campus cooking and steam

Like every college campus, most non-fire alarms are avoidable. Most alarms are caused by cooking or steam from showers. This brings the fire department and police on campus for many more occasions than they would normally have to respond. By following a few simple steps, we can avoid all unnecessary responses. **Always turn vent fans in bathrooms and over stoves to high when in use.** If you know you are going to be cooking something that will produce a large amount of vapors, you may use a small fan to re-direct vapors away from smoke detectors. **Covering, removing or bypassing detectors physically, however, is considered tampering and a code of conduct violation and a violation of the law.** For more information refer to your student handbook.

## E2Text

Sign up and encourage your parents to sign up for the SBU e2text. In an actual fire, accountability of you and all your floor mates will be critical in ensuring everyone's safety.

## Evacuations and Preparation

All are required, without question, to evacuate any/all campus dwellings during a fire alarm. It is immaterial to attempt to distinguish between a drill and a fire. Be prepared at all times for inclement weather. You may find it helpful to prepare an evacuation bag and keep warm clothing for quick departures at any time. If you have a roommate, be sure you know how to wake him or her safely and calmly to help each other get out.

## Fire/Life Safety Questions

Contact Ralph Aloia, Office of Safety and Security, at 716-375-2525 or [raloia@sbu.edu](mailto:raloia@sbu.edu).