



For Immediate Release

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College Campus Fire Safety Tips to Start the School Year Right

Olympia – As college students prepare to move into dormitories or off-campus housing for the upcoming school year, they should ensure their living space is a fire-safe environment. The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office encourages students to keep these tips in mind:

- Look for fully-sprinklered housing when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing.
- Check to make sure that smoke alarms are installed in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and in all living areas.
- Ensure all appliances, such as stoves or curling irons, are turned off before leaving your dorm room or apartment.
- Always keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and extinguish them before going to sleep or leaving the room.
- Never leave the kitchen unattended when you are cooking, and cook only in areas where it is allowed. Do not use outdoor cooking appliances indoors.
- Do not overload extension cords, power strips or outlets. Check with your college/university to see which types of appliances are allowed in residence hall rooms.
- Know your building's evacuation plan, and practice all drills as if they were the real thing.
- If you live off-campus, have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room.

Implementing these tips can ensure that you have a safe and memorable school year. For more information, visit the SFMO's website at www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office/ or follow us on Twitter @wafiremarshal.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington States firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.