Residence Hall Fire Safety Regulations

Fire safety violations result in a minimum $150 fine. Additional violations found on the same date will increase the fine by $50 per violation, up to $250. Cost for any damages caused by fire safety violations will also be charged to the resident(s) and may result in conduct action.

1. When a violation is found, residents will be notified by email or by written notice left in the room.
2. Residents have 72 hours to discuss responsibility with their Residential Community Director.
3. If resident(s) do not contact the Residential Community Director within 72 hours, the fine will be divided equally between roommates and/or suitemates and charged to the student accounts.
4. Residents are encouraged to participate in educational opportunities to reduce the fines.
5. Residents who have questions about fire safety or who have a prohibited item are responsible for discussing it with a Residential Community Director immediately. The Residential Community Director will store any prohibited items if the resident brings it to his/her attention prior to Safety and Maintenance Inspections.

Prohibited Behavior

- Smoking and/or evidence of smoking in the building or within 25 feet of a building. This includes e-cigarette type devices.
- Any form or source of an open flame in the building. Possessing flammable/combustible liquids or gases.

These violations will be investigated and sanctioned by the University Park Fire Department. Sanctions referred to a municipal judge may include up to a $2,000 fine. In addition, residents are sanctioned by the SMU Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. SMU sanctions may include a $500 fine and removal from the Residence Halls.

- Criminal mischief/Arson
- Tampering, covering or damaging the following: fire exit lights, fire exit signs, pull stations, horns, strobes, fire exit doors.
- Obstructing or locking fire exit doors.
- Failure to evacuate in a timely matter when the fire alarm sounds.

ELECTRICAL

- Surge Protectors with a reset switch plugged directly into the wall – 3-prong type only.
- Apologies with an outlet or USB ports; (i.e., lamps, vanity mirrors, etc.)
- UL-approved electrical devices that meet other fire safety standards.

Power or plug-in tools cannot be used in the room.

If needed, space heaters provided by SMU must be unplugged when not in the room.

Battery backup (universal power) devices less than 600 watts.

- UL-approved appliances that meet other fire safety standards.

LAMPS/LIGHTING

- Appliance must be attended when in use and those with heating elements (no open coils) must be unplugged when not in use.
- UL-approved appliances that meet other fire safety standards.
- Pod-style coffee makers (may remain plugged in)

PERSONAL APPLIANCES

- Any non UL-approved personal appliances.

COOKING/KITCHEN

- Any non UL-approved appliances.

COOKING/KITCHEN

- Any non UL-approved appliances.

DECORATING THE ROOM

- Any non UL-approved appliances.

- Any non UL-approved appliances.

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At Southern Methodist University (SMU), Residence Life & Student Housing (RLSH) works closely with the Office of Police and Risk Management and the University Park Fire Marshal to educate residents about fire prevention. All students residing in residence halls are expected to abide by the fire safety regulations and policies to better ensure the safety of the entire residential community. The list of violations is subject to change at any time and will be communicated by official postings.

All resident rooms are inspected for safety and maintenance at least once per semester by University staff and/or the University Park Fire Marshal. The purpose of inspections is to enhance safety of all residents, assess need for repairs and to enforce residence hall policies, including fire safety regulations. Residents will be notified of violations via email or written notice left in the room. Prohibited items will be confiscated by the Residential Community Director and/or designated staff during inspections. Residents are responsible for violations in their rooms, even if they are not directly responsible for the prohibited item or condition leading to the violation. Prohibited items may be a violation, even if not in use.

### Five Easy Ways to Avoid a Fire Safety Fine

1. **The number one way to avoid a fine and the easiest to do:** unplug appliances with heating elements (hair straightener, iron, coffee pot) while not in use.
2. **Not enough light in the room?** Use compact fluorescent (CF) or LED bulbs in your lamps.
3. **Use only a 3-prong surge protector with an on-off switch** (avoid any other “extension” cord).
4. **Need to freshen the air?** Use only canned or freestanding air fresheners.
5. **Read and follow the fire safety regulations, and ask questions if you’re not sure about something!**

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**Residence Hall Fire Safety Regulations**

**Do You Know...**

How to Prevent a Fire?

How to Avoid a Fire Safety Fine?

Start Here! Read the policies and learn what is allowed & what is not.

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**Ensuring Resident Safety**

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**Residence Hall Fire Safety Contact Information**

SMU Fire Manager  
Office of Risk Management  
214-768-4203  

Questions, Comments, Suggestions of Feedback on Fire Safety?  
Email: safety@smu.edu  
Call Residence Life & Student Housing 214-768-2407  
RLSH Website: smu.edu/housing