Apartment Halls Fire Safety Regulations

Fire safety violations will result in a fine. Cost for any damages caused by fire safety violations will also be charged to the resident(s) and may result in conduct action. When violation is found, residents will be notified by email or written notice left in the room.

SMU Fire Safety Policy

Tampering with, damaging, or misusing fire safety equipment including, but not limited to, pull stations, smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, or exit signs; unauthorized burning of any material in any University building on or near University property; disregarding a fire alarm or failure to evacuate a building when a fire alarm is sounding; falsely initiating any report, alarm, warning, or threat of fire, explosion, or other emergency; obstruction of fire escapes, corridors, or stairways is a violation of the University's fire safety policy (see https://www.smu.edu/Policy/11-Risk-Management/11-7-Fire-Safety).

Students in violation of this policy may face student conduct sanctions, including, but not limited to, Educational Sanctions, fines, or removal from Residence Halls (if applicable). Any of these violations could also be investigated and sanctioned by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Sanctions referred to a municipal judge may include a fine up to $2,000.

Prohibited Behavior

- Smoking and/or evidence of smoking in the building or within 25 feet of a building. This includes e-cigarettes or vaping type devices.
- Any form or source of an open flame in the building
- Possessing flammable/combustible liquids or gases
- Possessing chemicals other than cleaning supplies
Residence Hall Fire Safety Regulations: Ensuring Resident Safety

At Southern Methodist University (SMU), Residence Life & Student Housing (RLSH) works closely with SMU Police and the Office of 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 in the residence halls.

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.

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!

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