Fraternity Chapter House 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.

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

LAMPS/LIGHTING
- Fluorescent or LED bulbs
- Battery-operated LED candles
- Lights with an outlet
- UL-approved lights that meet other fire safety standards
- No more than three strands of lights (miniature style) may be connected together and may not be hung around doors or touch the metal part of the bed

PERSONAL APPLIANCES
- UL-approved appliances that meet other fire safety standards
- Appliances with a heating elements must be unplugged when not in use
  - clothes irons
  - curling irons
  - hair straighteners
  - curlers
  - garment steamers
  - and the like

COOKING/KITCHEN
- Unattended cooking such as when using the microwave or kitchen
- Microwaves
- Broilers, electric skillets, grills (charcoal, gas and cooking), woks
- Slow cookers/rice cookers
- Toaster ovens/toaster
- Hot plates/induction plates
- Any cooking device with open coils
- Any non UL-approved appliances

DECORATING THE ROOM
- Smoke 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
- Possessing chemicals other than cleaning supplies

Prohibited Behavior
- Smoking
- Tampering with fire suppression system
- Discharging or removing a fire extinguisher
- Tampering with control valves
- Breaking sprinkler head(s)
- Removing or covering smoke/heat detectors
- Tampering with fire alarm systems
- 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 manner when the fire alarm sounds

These violations will be investigated and sanctioned by the University Park Fire Department. Sanctions referred to a municipal judge may include fines up to $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 SMU-owned campus housing. These violations are considered Class C misdemeanors.

Free-standing air fresheners or potpourri, such as Glade® Sense & Spray
- Canned-air fresheners, such as Febreeze®
- Electric wax warmers, such as Senses®
- Air purifiers
- Humidifiers

Items listed in Green boxes are permitted
Items listed in Yellow boxes permitted with exceptions
Items listed in Red boxes are NOT PERMITTED in Fraternity Chapter Houses

Surge protectors with a on-off switch plugged directly into the wall – 3-prong type only
Appliances 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

2-Pronged extension cords
Surge protector or extension cord plugged into a surge protector or extension cord ("daisy chain" fashion)
Extension cords with multi-plug outlets
Multi-plug outlets without surge protection
Any non UL-approved electrical devices
Fog or smoke machines
Gasoline powered equipment (i.e. generator)

Residents who have questions about fire safety or who have a prohibited item are responsible for discussing it with RLSH immediately.
Residents are encouraged to participate in educational opportunities to reduce the fines.
Access to windows may not be blocked by more than 50%. Anything placed in front of the window must be easily movable in the event of an emergency (i.e., no large furniture)

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
Possessing chemicals other than cleaning supplies

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
Possessing chemicals other than cleaning supplies

These violations will be investigated and sanctioned by the University Park Fire Department. Sanctions referred to a municipal judge may include fines up to $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 SMU-owned campus housing. These violations are considered Class C misdemeanors.

Free-standing air fresheners or potpourri, such as Glade® Sense & Spray
- Canned-air fresheners, such as Febreeze®
- Electric wax warmers, such as Senses®
- Air purifiers
- Humidifiers

Beads or curtains may be hung over closet doorways only with tension rods
Artificial trees under 3’ or live trees under 18”. Trees may not have lights on them.
Decorations may be hung using the approved method so long as they are flush to the wall and do not cover more than 25% of the wall
Decorations may be hung with white sticky tack, painters tape, or picture hooks (up to 20lb size). 3M™ strips or other adhesive hooks are not permitted.
Access to windows may not be blocked by more than 50%. Anything placed in front of the window must be easily movable in the event of an emergency (i.e., no large furniture)

Ensuring Resident Safety

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.

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

Fraternity Chapter House 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

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!