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. 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. These violations are considered Class C misdemeanors.

### 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

### SMU Fire Safety Policy

- Tampering with, damage to, or misusing fire safety equipment such as, 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 refusing 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; or interfering with the University’s fire safety policy (see http://www.smu.edu/policy). Violators may also face criminal charges. A list of Residence Life Fire Safety policies, including prohibited items, is available on the Office of Residence Life and Student Housing website at https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/Housing/eHandbook/

### Electric and Lamps/Lighting

- Surge Protectors with a reset switch plugged directly into the wall – 3-prong type only
- 3-pronged Heavy Duty Extension Cord with one outlet and one appliance plugged directly into the wall
- 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
- Extension cords
- Surge protector or extension cord plugged into a surge protector or extension cord (“daisy chain” fashion)
- Extension cords with multi-plug outlets
- Any non UL-approved electrical devices
- Fog or smoke machines
- Gasoline powered equipment (i.e. generator)

### Personal Appliances

- Items listed in Green boxes are permitted
- Items listed in Yellow boxes permitted with exceptions
- Items listed in Red boxes are NOT PERMITTED in residence halls

### Cooking/Kitchen

- UL-approved appliances that meet other fire safety standards
- Appliances with heating elements must be unplugged when not in use
- UL-approved personal appliances that meet other fire safety standards
- Any cooking device with open coils
- Any non UL-approved personal appliances

### Prohibited Behavior

- Discharging or removing a fire extinguisher
- Fireworks of any type/explosives/gun powder
- Tampering with control valves
- Breaking sprinkler head(s)
- Removing or covering smoke/heat detectors
- Disabling/tampering with fire suppression system
- Disabling/tampering with fire alarm system

### Decorating the Room

- Items listed in Red boxes are NOT PERMITTED in residence halls

### Class C Misdemeanor

- Criminal mischief/Arson
- Tampering, covering or damaging the following: fire extinguishers, 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
Apartment Halls Fire Safety

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

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

Residence Hall Fire Safety Regulations:
Ensuring Resident Safety

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.

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 in the residence halls.

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!

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