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 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; violating the University’s fire safety policy (see [http://www.smu.edu/policy](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/FireSafety](https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/Housing/eHandbook/FireSafety).

Smoking and/or evidence of smoking in the building or within 25 feet of a building, including vaping and e-cigarettes
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

Fraternity Chapter House Fire Safety Regulations

These violations will be investigated and sanctioned by the University Park Fire Department. Sanctions referred to a municipal judge may include 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.

- 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

Fraternity chapter houses may be fined when the University Park Fire Department responds to a false alarm.
Greek House Fire Safety Regulations: 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 Fraternity chapter houses are expected to abide by the fire safety regulations and policies to better ensure the safety of the entire community. The list of violations is subject to change at any time and will be communicated by official postings.

Common areas of chapter houses are inspected at least once a week by RLSH. 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 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 RLSH 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 (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!