Fire Safety

Old Dominion University has made a serious commitment to fire safety. The university has a full-time Fire Safety Engineer dedicated to fire safety for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. ODU works closely with the Norfolk Fire Department and the Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office to meet or exceed applicable local and state code requirements. Norfolk Fire and Rescue are first responders to all fire and medical emergencies on the main campus.

Smoke-Free Campus

- All residence halls, including student rooms, are smoke free.
- Smoking is not allowed within 25 feet of any building entrance.
- Smoking any substance or creating smoke through the use of incense, candles or other scented smoke producing items is prohibited in residence halls.
- Students documented for possession of candles/incense in a residence hall will be assessed a fee of $75.
- Students documented for burning candles/smoking in a residence hall will be assessed a fee of $100.

Evacuation Procedures

- Residents are required to evacuate the building immediately when a fire alarm sounds.
- Failure to evacuate for any reason may result in referral to the student conduct system and assessed a fee of $50 for first offense; $75 for second offense.

Tampering with Fire Safety Equipment

- Any student who tampers with fire and life safety equipment or interferes with the operation of the alarm systems, damages or removes any part of the alarm systems, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors or an exit sign is subject to disciplinary action, including a $200 fine.
- Any student who deliberately sets off a false alarm is subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal from the residence hall and possible suspension from the university. This will result in a fine of $500 and costs associated with the violation, in addition to arrest.

Negligent Alarms

- Residents who set off a fire alarm as a result of cooking may face a fine of $50.
Items Prohibited in Residence Halls

- Extension cords and multi-plug adapters.
- Halogen and torch lamps.
- Toasters/toaster ovens.
- George Foreman type grills.
- Hazardous materials.
- Fireworks.
- Explosives/flammables/propane/gas grills.
- Motorized vehicles.
- Firearms/weapons/incendiary devices.
- Live Christmas trees.
- Candles/incense/oil lamps/open flames.
- Portable heaters.
- Appliances with exposed heating elements.

**Students found with prohibited items will face referral to the student conduct system and a fine of $75.**

Education and Training Initiatives

Residence Hall Staff, Resident Assistants, Graduate Assistants, and Resident Hall Director’s, receive annual fire safety training prior to the start of the Fall Semester. Two fire evacuation drills per residence hall are conducted each year. Participation in these fire drills is mandatory and failure to evacuate the building during a fire alarm will result in disciplinary action. Fire safety training is also provided to other students, faculty, and staff by request.