

# CAMPUS Firewatch™

JANUARY 2003

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## Tufts Off-campus Facility

A fire in an off-campus converted garage claimed the life of Wendy Carman, a 20-year-old junior at Tufts University. According to officials, no permits had ever been taken out to convert the building to an apartment, even though it was equipped with baseboard heat.

The building where the fire occurred was a two-story wood frame garage attached to a two-family house by a breezeway. The loft was accessed by either a ladder or stairs that led to a small, three-foot by two-foot opening through which the occupant had to crawl to enter the apartment. There was evidence of a forced hot water baseboard heating unit in the apartment, but there did not appear to be any cooking or bathroom facilities, according to officials. A smoke detector was found in the debris, but it was missing its battery.

The fire occurred on January 18 at about 4:25 in the morning. A neighbor spotted the fire and called 911. Upon arrival, the fire department reported that the fire had

## Fire Fatalities, 2002

*In 2002, seven people died in fires across the nation in student housing. Of these seven, six were in off-campus housing and one was in a fraternity.*

*As tragic as these numbers are, they are a distinct improvement over 2002 when 18 people were killed in off-campus fires. However, they do continue to underscore the fact that the greatest risk for dying in a fire is in the off-campus environment. Since 2000, 75% of the fatalities have occurred in off-campus houses and apartments.*

*Page three contains a summary of the four incidents that claimed the lives of these seven young people.*

## Campus Firesafety Forum V

### Major Changes in the Wind

**The date has been set-November 4, 5 and 6 for Campus Firesafety Forum V!**

The biggest change is that it is going to be held in Boulder, Colorado at the University of Colorado. Given that the whole forum is all about campus and student fire safety, and the attendees are from the college environment, it made sense to hold it at a major institution. Boulder is a great destination, and the University and the Boulder Fire Department are working overtime to help put together an extraordinary Forum.

In another change, the Forum is going to be sponsored by this newsletter, Campus Firewatch. Co-hosts are going to include the Boulder Fire Department, University of Colorado, the Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Manager's Association and the United States Fire Administration.

We're putting together a full program for the three days. While the program has not firmed up, we're looking at topics in terrorism, laboratory fire safety, emergency management, student riots and more. If anyone should have a suggestion on a topic that they think should be covered, please let me know at publisher@campus-firewatch.com.

### History of the Forums

Since it's inaugural in 1999, the Campus Firesafety Forum has grown and become the premier gathering of experts in the field of campus fire safety. At each forum the topics covered have become more diverse, yet more relevant. Each time we've strived to make it a valuable working session for everyone involved. 2003 will be a giant leap

# FROM THE Editor

Tragedy struck very close to home this month with a fatal fire at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. So many factors in this fire—the lack of a smoke detector, the illegal apartment, no adequate means of egress, and an occupant that smoked. All of these factors can be seen time and time again at occupancies across the country.

Students will often overlook some of the “deficiencies” in an apartment or house because it is inexpensive or located close to the school or transportation. As Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Coan said, it often comes down to “location, location, location” when selecting a house.

In Medford, the landlord had installed baseboard heating in the loft over the garage, so apparently it was intended as a living space. We need to overcome this and make sure that the housing stock available for students is adequate and safe. Landlords should be put on notice that these types of creative living situations are not acceptable.

However, it is not always the landlord that may be at fault. I clearly remember one house that I lived in while in college. There were five of us, and in order to have privacy, one of my roommates moved his bed and belongings into a walk-in closet. He smoked, had makeshift lighting in there—in other words, a potential for disaster. Sometimes I look back and wonder why we didn’t become a statistic ourselves.

In looking at the big picture for 2002, it was a good one compared to the prior year. Only seven people died, as opposed to 19 in 2001 and 15 in 2000. Is it a fluke or are we starting to make some progress? I’d like to think that we are making some solid progress. The combined efforts of everyone is making the issue of campus fire safety stand out in the forefront, and making students, administrators and parents more aware of what they can do to create a fire-safe environment.

Looking ahead, we have big plans for 2003. Campus Firesafety Forum V will be held at a campus this year—the University of Colorado in beautiful Boulder! The program is going to be focusing entirely on the timely and important issues that you are all facing. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let me know at [publisher@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:publisher@campus-firewatch.com).

Stay safe!

*Ed Comeau, the editor of Campus Firewatch, is the former chief fire investigator for the National Fire Protection Association. He began his involvement in campus fire safety as a fire fighter with the Amherst, Massachusetts, fire department while pursuing his degree in civil engineering. He can be reached at [publisher@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:publisher@campus-firewatch.com).*

## CAMPUS JANUARY 2003 Firewatch™

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Campus fire safety is a complex issue. The information in this newsletter is provided to help you in your efforts to provide as fire-safe a community as possible. However, it is no replacement for professional advice. For further assistance, contact your local fire department.

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### Campus Firewatch™

a publication of writer-tech.com, llc  
P.O. Box 1046  
Belchertown, MA 01007  
PH: (413) 323-6002  
FX: (413) 323-5295  
[publisher@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:publisher@campus-firewatch.com)  
[www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com)

### Design and Layout:

McCusker Communications, Inc.  
575 Washington Street  
Canton, MA 02021  
PH: (781) 401-3174  
FX: (781) 401-3175  
EM: [cmccusker@cmccusker.com](mailto:cmccusker@cmccusker.com)

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# Fire Fatalities Summary, 2002

**February 15, 2002**

**Off-campus fatal fire**

**University of North Carolina-  
Greensboro**

**Greensboro, North Carolina**  
**www.uncg.edu**

A fire in an off-campus apartment complex has claimed the lives of four occupants. According to fire officials, the fire was reported at 2:20 a.m. Upon arrival, fire department units observed a large fire extending from the rear through an open common area. Occupants of the building were leaping from balconies and climbing out of windows to escape the fire. Fire officials report that it took 40 minutes to bring the fire under control.

The remains of four bodies were found in the debris. Two of the victims were students at the UNC-Greensboro. A woman has been charged with four counts of first-degree murder in the fire.

The building was a three-story, wood frame apartment complex with a large open-air breezeway in the middle. The building was not equipped with a sprinkler system and was equipped with single-station smoke detectors that did not transmit to a monitoring station.

**July 17, 2002**

**Fatal off-campus fire**

**University of Rhode Island**

**Narragansett, Rhode Island**  
**(fire location)**

**www.uri.edu**

A URI junior was killed in a fire that destroyed a house that she was renting for the summer.

According to Captain Smith with the Narragansett Fire Department, the building where the fire occurred was a two-story duplex with one apartment over the other. The first floor was concrete

and the second floor was wood frame. The apartment was equipped with a single-station, battery powered smoke detector, but it is not clear as to whether the smoke detector operated or not during the fire.

One of the occupants of the house was awakened by the smell of smoke. When she opened her bedroom door, she saw smoke in the living room with orange flames rolling over her head. She went to her bedroom window, climbed out, and then went to the building next door to report the fire.

At 4:31 a.m., the fire department received several calls reporting a working fire. Upon arrival of the first engine, it was reported that there were flames coming out of all of the windows on the first floor. An attack was initiated, and it was known that there was one victim located in one of the bedrooms. Once the fire was knocked down, crews began search and rescue operations and located the victim at approximately 5:15 a.m.

According to officials, the cause of the fire was smoking materials improperly disposed of in a couch in the living room. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

Both of the occupants were smokers, as well as the two visitors that had been over earlier in the evening.

**August 13, 2002**

**Fatal Fraternity Fire**

**Michigan Tech University**

**Houghton, Michigan**  
**www.mtu.edu**

A fire in a three-story, wood frame fraternity has claimed the life of one student. The fire started in a stove in the kitchen on the first floor that had been left on in the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity. The grease in the hood was ignited and

the fire spread upwards into the structure. In an interview with Chief Lightfoot from the Houghton Fire Department, he said the he did not believe that the hood was equipped with a suppression system.

The building was equipped with a local fire alarm system that alerted the five occupants in the building. It was not equipped with a fire sprinkler system.

A delivery person at the grocery store notified the fire department across the street at 6:09 a.m. Upon arrival at 6:14 a.m. the building was heavily involved in fire and the fire fighters were unable to make an interior attack. Floors were beginning to collapse at this point in time. The crews were advised that there may be victims inside, and later during the fire attack, this was confirmed.

Four people were able to escape the building. The victim was found five feet from a window in his room, and the chief indicated that he had been attempting to escape.

**December 3, 2002**

**Fatal off-campus fire**

**Indiana University**

**Bloomington, Indiana**

**www.iub.edu**

A graduate student died in an off-campus fire that was believed to be caused by careless disposal of smoking materials. The fire department was called to the apartment complex after a resident reported smelling something burning. Upon arrival, the fire department found a fire inside of the student's apartment and extinguished it. The 42-year-old male was found crouched inside of a closet. It is believed that he became disoriented because of the smoke.

# LEGISLATION

## Update

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### Federal

#### HR 471 - Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act of 2001

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<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Status</b>
Congressman Bill Pascrell 1722 Longworth Building (HOB) Washington, DC 20515 202-225-5751 (tel) 202-225-5782 (fax) bill.pascrell@mail.house.gov <a href="http://www.house.gov/pascrell/">http://www.house.gov/pascrell/</a>	None	Campuses nationwide	This bill will require institutions to provide information to the Secretary of Education about the institution's fire safety record, the number of false alarms, fire safety policies and any future plans for fire safety upgrades.	Died in committee.

### Federal

#### S 399 - College Fire Prevention Act

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<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Status</b>
Senator John Edwards United States Senate 225 Dirksen Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3154 (tel) <a href="http://www.senate.gov/~edwards/">http://www.senate.gov/~edwards/</a>	\$100,000,000 for each of five years	Dormitories and Greek housing nationwide	This bill calls for fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in public and private college and university housing and dormitories, including fraternity and sorority housing and dormitories. It will provide \$100 million in 50% matching funds per year for five years.	Died in committee.

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## Federal

### HR 2145 - College Fire Prevention Act

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**Sponsor**

Representative  
Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
1516 Longworth House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-7032 (tel)  
202-225-1339 (fax)  
stephanie.tubbs.jones@m  
ail.house.gov  
<http://www.house.gov/tubbsjones/>

**Summary**

This is a companion bill to Senate Bill S399 proposed by Senator Edwards (D-NC).

**Status**

Died in committee.

## Federal

### S773 - Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act

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**Sponsor**

Senator Robert Torricelli  
United States Senate  
115 Dirksen Senate  
Building  
Washington, DC. 20510  
202-224-3224 (tel)  
<http://www.senate.gov/~torricelli/>

**Funding**

None

**Facilities**

Colleges, universities  
and Greek housing,  
nationwide

**Summary**

This legislation is similar to House Bill 471, except that it also requires institutions to report what they are doing for fire prevention efforts, which is an extremely important difference.

**Status**

Died in committee.

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# CAMPUS Fire Log

The following are brief summaries of incidents that have occurred in college occupancies. Unless noted otherwise, they have been taken from press accounts and have not been verified for accuracy. Several of these incidents will be profiled in future issues of Campus Firewatch.

*If you have an incident that you would like to contribute for this column, please contact us at [publisher@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:publisher@campus-firewatch.com).*

**December 17, 2002**  
**University Hospital Fire**  
**University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics**  
**Iowa City, Iowa**

A fire forced the evacuation of 39 patients from a building that housed the pediatric in-patient units. The second and third floor had to be evacuated. The fire started in a lower level mechanical room and caused between \$8,000 and \$10,000 in damage.

**December 20, 2002**  
**Off-campus apartment fire**  
**University of Missouri**  
**Columbia, Missouri**  
**[www.missouri.edu](http://www.missouri.edu)**

(The following information was provided by Lt. Amy Barrett, Columbia Fire Department).

Columbia fire fighters were dispatched to 301 Campus View Drive, College Park Apartments, Apartment 216 at 12:22 p.m. Fire fighters responding to the scene received information that flames

were showing from the apartment and one occupant of the apartment had been burned.

Upon arrival, fire fighters first provided emergency medical attention to the burn victim, Jessica Batz, 19 yrs old. Other fire fighters on the scene checked the apartment and found the fire was out. Jessica was transported to University Hospital.

Jessica had placed their used scented candles in a pot on the stove. The candles melted down and were simmering. According to the occupants, the purpose of this was so that the candles would give off a nice scent.

Both occupants left the kitchen area for an undetermined amount of time. The smoke alarm in the kitchen began to sound, and when the occupants re-entered the area, they found the pot with candles in it was on fire. The occupants got a fire extinguisher from the apartment's laundry room and attempted to extinguish the fire. They did not extinguish the fire, so Jessica then grabbed the pot and tried to carry it out of the apartment. The burning wax

spilled on her right hand, right leg, and right foot. Jessica received second degree burns to her hand, leg, and foot.

College Park Apartment has a clause in the rental agreement that says tenants shall not burn candles. Property management does not have a damage estimate at this time, but the stove will be replaced and possibly some of the carpet.

**January 6, 2003**  
**Off-campus apartment fire**  
**University of Missouri**  
**Columbia, Missouri**  
**[www.missouri.edu](http://www.missouri.edu)**

(The following information was provided by Lt. Amy Barrett, Columbia Fire Department.)

Columbia Fire Fighters were dispatched to 1419 Wilson early this morning of January 6, 2003 at 4:46 a.m. The information from central dispatch said an occupant of the house called 9-1-1 and reported a fire in his room. As the 9-1-1 operator tried to gather more information, the phone line went dead.

Fire fighters arrived on the scene to find heavy fire from the third floor and the attic. Four of the occupants of the house were home at the time. All occupants evacuated safely and none were injured in the fire. Fire fighters pulled a hose line up to the third floor which had been separated into four bedrooms. Fire fighters extinguished the fire in the bedroom of fire origin, and stopped the extension of the fire into the other three bedrooms. The room of fire origin sustained extensive damage and none of the occupants' belongings are salvageable. The other bedrooms on the third floor sustained some damage from radiant heat and smoke. Rooms on the second and first floor sustained some water damage. Damage is estimated at \$100,000.

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The occupants thanked the fire fighters for their quick response and were also thankful for the Columbia Fire Departments' efforts to protect their items from water damage with plastic tarps.

Columbia Fire Investigators determined that the fire started in the third floor bedroom and the cause is an unattended candle. The occupant confirmed that he was reading with a candle lit and fell asleep. He awoke to find his bedding on fire. He tried to extinguish it, but the fire and smoke quickly became overwhelming, and he evacuated while alerting the other occupants of the fire. The occupants are all University of Missouri-Columbia students and members of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity. They will be staying in the fraternity house until alternative housing is provided. The occupants do not have renter's insurance.

Almost half (44%) of the home candle fires start in the bedroom (Source: National Fire Protection Association - NFPA). In off-campus student housing, there have been 29 student deaths nation wide identified since January 1, 2000.

This is 73% of all student deaths identified by Campus Firewatch in this period. Campus Firewatch is a monthly electronic newsletter that provides information on campus fire related issues nationwide.

Occupants reported hearing the smoke alarm, and almost simultaneously hearing the occupant of the attic bedroom yelling for them to evacuate the house. There were several working smoke detectors in the house. Homes with smoke alarms typically have a death rate that is 40-50% less than the rate for homes without smoke alarms (Source: NFPA). In three of every ten (10) reported home fires equipped with

smoke alarms, the devices did not work. The most common cause of a smoke alarm not functioning is a missing, dead, or disconnected battery. (Source: NFPA).

The Columbia Fire Department challenges everyone to check their smoke alarm one a month to make sure it is functioning, change the battery twice a year when we change our clocks for daylight savings time, and replace smoke alarms at least every ten (10) years. If you cannot remember the last time you changed your battery or the smoke alarm itself, it is a good idea to replace the battery or the alarm as soon as possible. Nationwide, there was home fire death every 170 minutes. One half of home fire deaths occur in 6% of homes with no smoke alarms. Don't become a statistic: Make sure your smoke alarms work!

**January 7, 2003**  
**Administration Building Fire**  
**Pratt Community College**  
**Pratt, Kansas**

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A fire in the college's administrative building's advising center damaged the center and left half of the campus without telephone service. Wiring for an adjacent computer center ran through the ceiling over the room where the fire broke out. Cause of the fire is unknown.

**January 9 and 12**  
**Dormitory Arson Fires**  
**Eastern Kentucky University**  
**Richmond, Kentucky**  
**www.eku.edu**

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Two arson fires were set in Commonwealth Hall dormitory. The first was in a third floor trash chute, the second was a cardboard box that was set on fire. In both cases the building's automatic fire sprinkler system controlled the fire. An award is being offered by the University.

**January 11, 2003**  
**Off-campus apartment,**  
**sprinkler save**  
**Pennsylvania State University**  
**State College, PA**  
**www.penn.edu**

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A smoke alarm sounding in his apartment alerted an occupant. Upon investigation, he found smoke banked down in the living room area, and a fire in the kitchen. Attempts to extinguish the fire failed and he and the other occupant exited the building and called 911. Before the arrival of the fire department a single residential sprinkler head activated and extinguished the fire. Damage was limited to the area of origin and no injuries were reported.

The building, one of nine buildings each housing 24 apartments, is three-stories and of unprotected wood frame construction. All buildings are protected by a residential sprinkler system, automatic fire detection, smoke alarms in the dwelling units and all sleeping rooms.

**January 15, 2003**  
**Dormitory Arson Fires**  
**Pennsylvania State University**  
**University Park, Pennsylvania**  
**www.penn.edu**

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A series of four fires have been set in Snyder Hall since November. The latest fire was set at approximately 2:55 a.m. in a trash can in a janitor's closet. This fire was similar to the other three which were also set in janitor's closets in approximately the same timeframe. The latest fire was extinguished by a resident assistant and a police officer and caused minor damage.

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**January 15, 2003**  
**Dormitory Fire**  
**Concord College**  
**Athens, West Virginia**  
**www.concord.edu**

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A fire broke out on the fourth floor of the nine-story North Tower residence hall and was reported at 5:18 p.m. The room was gutted in the course of the fire. A fire fighter was injured when he fell 12 feet off of a ladder while fighting the fire. Approximately 200 students had to be evacuated, and rooms on the third and fourth floor were damaged by smoke and water. The fire was contained to the suite of origin.

The cause of the fire was determined to be a candle that fell over onto a pillow which was then ignited. The room was unoccupied at the time of the fire.

Candles are not allowed at Concord College, and this is explained to students at the beginning of the semester and outlined in the student handbook. According to a university official, the student was not charged with any violations as a result of this fire.

The North Tower houses approximately 330 women, while the South Tower holds 330 men. There are two people per bedroom, and two bedrooms per suite. Neither high-rise is equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system and there are no plans to install one, according to a university official. The cost of installation was cited as the reason for not installing a system.

**January 18, 2003**  
**Off-campus fatal fire**  
**Tufts University**  
**Medford, Massachusetts**  
**www.tufts.edu**

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A fire in an off-campus apartment claimed the life of a 20-year-old junior, Wendy Carman, from Tufts University. The fire occurred in a makeshift apartment that was located over a garage. According to reports, access to the loft was gained by climbing a set of stairs and then crawling through an opening into the apartment.

The fire was reported by a passerby to the Medford Fire Department. Upon arrival, fire was showing out of the windows on the second floor of the building. The fire fighters attempted an interior attack but were forced back when the floor to the apartment collapsed into the garage space. The victim was found after the fire had been suppressed in the garage area.

A smoke detector was found, but the battery was missing. It was reported that the occupant of the apartment did smoke.

**January 18, 2003**  
**Off-campus apartment fire**  
**Eastern Carolina University**  
**Greenville, North Carolina**  
**www.ecu.edu**

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A fire in an off-campus apartment building destroyed all eight units. The fire started at approximately 4:30 a.m. in one of the first floor units and spread throughout the two-story building. According to fire officials, the building was equipped with smoke detectors in the individual units, but there was no central fire alarm system. The building was not equipped with automatic fire sprinklers.

**January 19, 2003**  
**Dormitory Fire**  
**Warren Wilson College**  
**Swannanoa, North Carolina**  
**www.warren-wilson.edu**

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A fire broke out in a two-story, wood frame dormitory, destroying three sections and causing an estimated \$3 million in damage. The dormitory was built in four separate wings, three of which were connected by a common attic. The fourth section was a single story lobby/common room building. The building was equipped with a fire alarm system but was not equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

The fire started in a recycling bin located on the exterior of the building. The fire spread to the wood exterior and then rapidly spread upward until it involved the roof. At the time of the fire the wind was blowing at approximately 30 to 35 miles per hour, so the fire was spread quickly through the common attic that connected the three buildings.

Students were alerted to the fire by the fire alarm and by other students pounding on their doors. One student was injured when she jumped from a second story window to escape the fire.

Upon arrival, the fire chief reported that roofs of two of the three interconnected buildings were fully involved and the fire had spread to all three buildings. The wind was blowing so hard that the flames were horizontal. Because of the fire involvement, a defensive fire fighting operation was initiated. It was reported that the fire was of such magnitude that there would not have been any viable victims upon the arrival of the fire department in the three sections that served as dormitories. A full description of the fire and the building can be found at the Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department's website at [www.svfd.net](http://www.svfd.net).

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**January 19, 2003**  
**Fraternity Fire-Sprinkler Save**  
**University of Colorado**  
**Boulder, Colorado**

(The following information was provided by Fire Safety Coordinator Sherry Kenyon, Boulder Fire Department.)

On January 19, 2003, a candle ignited sheets that were hung from the ceiling as part of an initiation ceremony at the Pi Kappa Phi chapter house. The fraternity member assigned to the room left the candle unattended for a short time.

The portable extinguisher that fraternity members tried to use was not charged. Residents activated the pull box and evacuated.

The automatic fire sprinkler system discharged and quickly extinguished the blaze. The fire department arrived (within four minutes) to find the sprinkler flowing and no fire present.

Fire crews noted that the required smoke alarm had been removed from the wall.

There was no fire damage to the off-campus structure. Moderate water damage was sustained in the room below the fire room.

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extended out of the windows and the roof of the building was fully involved and the roof was collapsing in.

The resident of the attached house told fire fighters that they believed the woman was in the apartment because her car was in the driveway. Crews attempted an interior attack, but because of the size of the fire and the instability of the building they were not able to gain access into the apartment. It took nine units from Medford and Somerville to bring the fire under control.

This fire has received quite a bit of attention in the Boston area. In addition to the normal news coverage, a noted columnist in the Boston Globe focused on this fire. Furthermore, the Tufts Daily has had several articles on the issue, and has called for the off-campus housing office to increase their education and awareness program for students.

This incident represents what can happen at many colleges and universities across the nation. Housing is often hard to find around many schools, and housing within easy commuting distance of a college is at an even greater premium. Students may settle for housing situations that are less than optimal because the rent is more inexpensive, or they are able to have a private room.

In an interview with Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan, he said that this fire "is an example of the difficulty that many students face finding off-campus housing." He continues by saying that "what is important to a young person is not what would be necessarily important to a fire safety official. They are not looking at the same issues that we would." Often, he said, the selection of housing comes down to "location, location, location."

Another factor in Massachusetts, according to Coan, is the fact that "a lot of the colleges are in older urban areas

and the housing stock is older, converted homes." This can create a challenge in creating a fire safe environment for the students.

This tragedy underscores the need to provide students with vital, lifesaving information on fire safety. They need to know what makes for a safe living environment, what are the responsibilities of the landlord and those of the tenant. Given that approximately two-thirds of the students in this country do not live in dormitories, it is a large population that we need to educate.

Hopefully, some changes will come about at Tufts, and we can use this as a catalyst for what has to be done nationwide in student housing, especially off-campus.

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forward for Forum V with some significant changes.

In 1999, the NFPA was the location of the first meeting and it was an opportunity to bring together experts and learn more about what was happening in the field of campus fire safety. The first meeting was an "invitation only" gathering of 18 people and no one thought that it would grow into an annual event.

One of the comments from all of the participants in this initial gathering was that there is a need for communicating and networking opportunities for those involved in providing fire protection on college and university campuses. Recognizing that there was a unique opportunity here, Campus Firewatch's publisher, Ed Comeau, approached the NFPA with the idea of continuing these meetings, but expanding them. NFPA agreed and asked Comeau to organize Forum II, which he has continued to do for each of the subsequent Forums.

In 2000 the NFPA Education Section

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stepped forward and served as a co-sponsor for Forum II as well as Forums III and IV, and has done an outstanding job of supporting our efforts. Judy Comoletti and all of the staff at NFPA went out of their way to help ensure that each program was a success.

The U.S. Fire Administration has also been a supporter of the Forums from the start. This first program in 1999 was funded by USFA, and they have been an active supporter of campus fire safety as a co-sponsor of the Forums and by funding and hosting the Living With Fire material on the USFA website.

Campus Firewatch's publisher, Ed Comeau, has been providing the organizational support for all of the Forums, and in 2001 at Forum III, Campus Firewatch became a listed co-sponsor and provided financial support to ensure the continued success of the program.

CSHEMA is another organization that has also provided fantastic support and in 2001 became a co-sponsor of the Forum and at Forum IV delivered the 2-day Student Housing Firesafety Seminar.

### **Why the changes?**

By bringing the Forum to a college community we are going to be providing a great backdrop to the program. The University of Colorado is providing incredible support in hosting the event and is certainly going all out to ensure that it is a memorable and successful event. Sherry Kenyon, from the Boulder Fire Department, has been working on pulling together a great location and has been going above and beyond when it comes to doing the legwork needed.

An outstanding staff of experts is being pulled together to help organize and run the Forum. These are people that have been actively involved in their own campus fire safety programs and the past Forums have brought them together as speakers. As a result they have become more active and nationally recognized

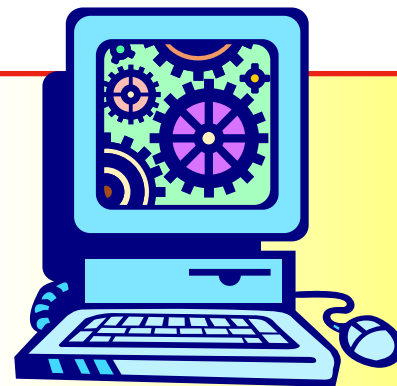
for their efforts and they will be bringing an incredible wealth of knowledge and expertise to Forum V.

Forum IV was a program with a mix of strong education sessions along with a number of informal networking opportunities. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to share ideas in both the formal and informal settings, and this is going to be continued and expanded in Forum V. In addition to a full slate of speakers, we're looking at having "hands on" working sessions as well as a number of these networking opportunities.

Boulder is a great place for Forum V. Right in the Rocky Mountains, it is a vibrant college town. Geographically, it is within driving distance of a number of western colleges and universities, and it is easily reached from Denver International Airport. The Forum is also scheduled during midweek, allowing people to travel on Monday and Friday, leaving your weekends free if you want to come in early or stay after the Forum and enjoy the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

Campus Firesafety Forum V promises to be the best opportunity yet for campus fire safety professionals to get together. It has grown from the past meetings into a strong educational opportunity and a great chance to meet and share ideas. This Forum is being designed to be very "user-friendly," ranging from the location to the programs. If you are looking for the one program that you should be attending this year, Campus Firesafety Forum V is the one!

Mark your calendars... November 4, 5 and 6, Boulder, Colorado!



## **Campus Firewatch Website**

The value of this newsletter doesn't stop with just this copy. Visit its companion website at [www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com), where you will find a wealth of information relating to campus fire safety. Included on the site is....

- *Model legislation from Chapel Hill, North Carolina*
- *Lesson plans*
- *Pending federal and state legislation*
- *Testimony given before state legislatures*
- *Breaking news*
- *Fire facts*
- *...and more!*

If you have something that you would like to contribute, please send it to us at [publisher@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:publisher@campus-firewatch.com)

See you there!

# CAMPUS Firewatch™

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## Graduation: Fatally Denied

Are you using this videotape for fire safety presentations? Join the hundreds of people across the country that are!

Graduation: Fatally Denied is a video produced specifically for today's college students. It takes the viewer on a trip through the eyes of a fictional student, Amelia. As she enters her room, we see that it is complete with typical fire safety dangers such as unattended candles, burning incense, overloaded outlets and a covered smoke detector. She sits down, lights up a cigarette and then falls asleep while studying.

The sound of the smoke detector wakens her to the fire in her room. She attempts to get out but is overcome by the smoke. When she regains consciousness, she is looking up into a fire fighter who is carrying her out of the building to a waiting ambulance.

The paramedics work to stabilize her enroute to the hospital as she fades in and out of consciousness. When she gets to the emergency room, the doctors and nurses continue to try to save her life, but she succumbs to her injuries.

This tape was produced to provide the campus fire safety educator with another tool to reach out and educate the students on the dangers of fire. Emergency Film Group ([www.efilmgroup.com](http://www.efilmgroup.com)) is able to distribute this tape at cost because of the incredibly generous underwriting that we received. For only \$17.95, you can have one of the newest innovative training tools available!

## Graduation: Fatally Denied was underwritten by:

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