

More info on... Fire Safety

Please note that, in regard to fire safety, the residences are governed by the laws and regulations of the Provincial Government, which are enforced by the Office of the Fire Marshal. Any action taken by a resident contrary to these laws and regulations will result in criminal charges. The Division of Housing and Ancillary Services will also apply in-house sanctions.

Due to the sensitive nature of the fire equipment, and in accordance with Ontario by-laws, smoking is not permitted in the residences. For the same reason, and to reduce the risk of fire, you are forbidden to have an open flame of any kind (e.g. cigarettes, candles, incense) anywhere in and around the residence. Furthermore, due to residence fire code regulations, you are not permitted to bring your own furniture into residence. Any act or prank which involves the setting of objects on fire will be treated with swift disciplinary sanctions. In the past, violations have resulted in the termination of residence contracts.

Since residents of Alumni House, Elgin Hall and Essex Hall have kitchenettes/serveries, they have extended obligations with respect to fire safety. They are expected to ensure that their cooking appliances are clean and in good working order to prevent false fire alarms or actual fires. Furthermore, because of the sensitivity of the fire system, Alumni House, Elgin Hall and Essex Hall residents are required to keep their suite (quad) doors closed and their exhaust fans turned on when cooking.

In the traditional-style residences, because of the danger of fire and problems of sanitation, equipment such as microwaves, hot plates, electric frying pans, toaster ovens, and any dangerous or bothersome appliances are not allowed in residence.

Prohibited items include:

- burning incense
- lighted candles
- lighted smoking materials (including cigarettes)
- firearms
- flammable liquids
- gas-powered equipment
- fireworks



If you see a fire break out:

- close the door to the fire area
- activate the building fire alarm system (i.e., pull station)
- leave the building by the nearest exit. Do NOT use the elevators
- do not re-enter the residence until the signal has been given by the residence manager

If you are trapped by a fire:

It may be safer to stay in your room. Here are some of the things you should do:

- Let someone know you are in the room. If the phone works, phone the University Police or the Fire Department or use the intercom to call the residence clerk.
- If your window can be opened, hang a bed sheet out of the window to signal the fire department, but close the window against smoke as necessary.
- A closed door can provide good protection against fire and smoke. Use towels or sheets (wet, if possible) to seal cracks. If smoke begins seeping through an air vent, cover it also. **If smoke enters the room, crouch low.**

Remember heat and gases rise.

- Do not cover or obstruct your smoke detector in any way.
- Report any power outages that occur. If a smoke detector activates and there is no fire or smoke, report it to your residence staff member.

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If you are in a fire area:

- Should the fire alarm sound, go to the door of your room. (If you are in bed and there is any evidence of smoke in the room, roll out of bed and crawl to the door. Don't stand - smoke and deadly gases rise.)
- Feel the door with the palm of your hand. If the door or the knob is hot - leave it shut. If the door is not hot, open it slowly, but be ready to close it immediately if necessary. Check the hall. If you can leave safely, do so immediately, closing all doors as you exit. Do not stop to collect clothes, books, etc.
- Take a blanket for protection from flames or cold outside. Wear your shoes. Move quickly to the recommended exit. If you encounter smoke or fire in your descent, use an alternative exit. If an alternative exit cannot be reached safely, either return to your room or seek refuge in a neighbour's room. You must decide which is the safest choice in each situation.
- If you are not in your room at the time of the alarm, do not return to it. Leave immediately by the closest exit, closing doors behind you.
- Don't use the elevator. Proceed with care down to the ground level. Hold onto the handrail for stability.
- Proceed to the designated assembly area.

Do not re-enter the building until the signal has been given by the residence manager.

Evacuation

A fire drill will be conducted in your residence hall to help you become familiar with evacuation procedures. You must leave the residence during the drills or fire alarms, or disciplinary sanctions may apply.

Persons remaining in the building endanger not only their own lives, but also the lives of firefighters and fellow residents who may have to rescue them - thus, everyone is expected to cooperate by evacuating the building immediately upon hearing the alarm or disciplinary sanctions will be applied.

Smoke Detectors

A smoke detector is mounted in your room. Some buildings also have heat detectors on the ceilings. Please take the following precautions to ensure the proper operation of your smoke detector:

- Do not cover or obstruct your smoke detector in any way.
- Report any power outages that occur.

If a smoke detector activates and there is no fire or smoke, report it to your residence staff member.

Fire Alarms

The floors of all campus buildings are equipped with manual fire alarm systems consisting of pull stations and horns. Most are also equipped with automatic fire alarms consisting of heat and smoke detectors. Some residence halls also have automatic sprinkler systems. For your safety, never tamper with these systems. False fire alarms are dangerous to residents and emergency personnel who must respond. Causing a false fire alarm is also illegal and punishable by fines and/or imprisonment, in addition to the termination of your residence contract.

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Fire Prevention

It is the duty of any resident to report an unsafe situation, such as a blocked fire exit, to the proper staff member.

- Smoking in all residences is prohibited.
- Cooking is not allowed in bedrooms.
- Eliminate unsafe electrical appliances, frayed extension cords, "octopus" plugs, etc.
- Familiarize yourself with your residence including exits, fire alarm system and evacuation procedures.
- If you have any questions concerning fire safety in your residence, please do not hesitate to ask a residence don or residence advisor.

The University employs a full-time staff of fire prevention professionals within the Department of Occupational Health and Safety. Fire prevention staff inspect all University buildings and test all sprinkler systems, fire alarms, and fire extinguishers. They also provide educational programs on fire safety in the residence halls.



You must not tamper with fire equipment, smoke detectors, heat detectors, exit signs, emergency exits, etc., as they exist for the safety of all and are to be used only in case of emergency. Any such tampering will result in swift disciplinary action.