

INSTITUTIONAL FIRE SAFETY POLICIES FOR UCF RESIDENCE HALLS and AFFILIATED HOUSING

UCF is committed to providing a safe living, working and learning environment. The mission of the Department of Housing and Residence Life (DHRL) is to provide students living in University owned, managed and affiliated housing with a safe and secure environment that is conducive to both academic and personal achievement. In addition to providing supervision, structure, and resident services in our communities, the department promotes the personal growth and development of each resident through intentional programming efforts and outreach. In our partnership with other units within the Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services (SDES) and the larger UCF community, the department strives to foster scholarship as a fundamental purpose, instill a sense of community, and support individual responsibility, creativity, integrity and excellence.

Fire safety is a top priority in UCF residential facilities. It is vital that members of the community understand and follow all rules and regulations. In an effort to further enhance improvements to fire safety the DHRL is continually evaluating the building systems for needed upgrades and scheduling them as they are required. Most recently UCF added new fire sprinklers to the Lake Claire housing facility and upgraded the fire alarm systems there. At present UCF is upgrading the fire alarm systems in Orange, Brevard and Seminole Halls. Future upgrades will include updating the fire panels in Citrus, Flagler and Sumter Halls. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) also monitors the training needs for added topic of discussion to improve fire safety awareness. A Daily Fire Log is maintained and accessible to the public and can be viewed at <http://police.ucf.edu/FireActivityLog.html> or in person at the UCF Police Department, 3610 Libra Drive, Orlando, FL 32816.

Fires can present a serious problem in affiliated housing apartment communities. Though damage is usually confined to property destruction, the loss of personal items or of life is a possibility. Knights Circle and The Pointe at Central management highly recommend residents obtaining renter's insurance to protect against such losses. Fires are often started through carelessness with cooking, matches, and cigarettes. Many fires can be avoided by using caution and common sense. By accepting the responsibility to keep apartments safe from fire, residents are not only protecting themselves, but their neighbors, as well. With only minimal planning and awareness, residents can make the difference between safety and disaster for everyone. In addition to the information provided above the following sections also apply to affiliate housing.

Fires and Emergency Evacuation

In the Event of Fire: If a fire or suspicious smoke is observed, activate the nearest pull station to sound the building alarm, call 911, and proceed to the building's evacuation location. Staff will respond to the sounding alarm and will direct residents accordingly. Always follow the direction of the UCF staff and the Police or Fire Department.

Evacuation Procedures: When an alarm sounds, all residents and their guests must immediately evacuate the building using the nearest exit, closing doors behind you, and proceed to the building's evacuation location. Use stairwells where available instead of elevators. Do not rush out into the hallway. If the door to evacuate is closed, first, feel the door by gently applying the back of your hand. If it is hot, use another way out. If the door is cool, you may leave through that door and locate the nearest exit. All residents and their guests are required to evacuate the building, whether it is a drill, an active fire, or other threat-related

incident. Failure to evacuate a building when an alarm has sounded or when directed by UCF staff, the Police and/or Fire Department is strictly prohibited and may result in student conduct action and/or termination of the resident's housing agreement. Stand out of the way of UCF staff and other personnel as they work to manage the incident.

If You Are Not Able to Evacuate: Smoke rises, so the cleanest air is near the floor. If the planned escape route becomes smoky, crawl out of the building on your hands and knees. If escaping the room is not possible, stuff wet towels, sheets and/or clothes around the door and vents to keep smoke out. Call 911 and give them your location. If no smoke is coming into the room, slightly open a window if possible. Stay low, yell and wave a bright cloth, towel, or sheet out a window to signal your location.

Evacuation Locations:

Each building has a designated evacuation location. Resident Assistants (RA) will inform residents of this location during their first residence hall meeting. Each evacuation location will be at least 400 feet from the building. If you think someone is missing or trapped inside the building, report this to the staff and emergency personnel on site.

Re-entry to the Building: Do not re-enter the building until you are instructed to do so. This order will be given by UCF staff or affiliated housing management, or by the UCF Police Department. Failure to comply may result in student conduct action and/or termination of the resident's housing agreement.

Reporting: All fire incidents must be reported to the RA, affiliated housing management, EH&S, and/or the UCF Police Department. If a member of the UCF community finds evidence of a fire that has been extinguished, and the person is not sure whether UCF Police has already responded, the community member should immediately notify the UCF Police Department to investigate and document the incident.

Accidental Fire Alarms: Any campus resident who activates the building fire alarm, accidentally or without a true emergency, is responsible for any related costs from the Fire Department response. The standard charge for such an event is \$300.00 (subject to change). This includes, but is not limited to, errors in cooking, smoking, vandalism, pranks, and policy violations. Any additional costs beyond this and any applicable policy violation charges will also be assessed to the responsible resident(s). Neither students nor staff can interrupt fire department units once they have been dispatched to the campus community. If an alarm is activated, the DHRL duty station or UCF Police Department should be contacted to help residents' better respond to protecting themselves and others in the community.

Fire Drills, Training, and Inspections

Fire Drills: DHRL and EH&S conduct fire drills each semester. Residents will be notified in advance but actual drill times will vary to encourage simulated emergency response.

Fire, Health, and Safety Inspections: For the safety of all community residents, room inspections are completed throughout the year to conduct specific fire, health and safety checks. Any violations found during these checks will need to be corrected in a specified time period (as directed by a RA). Failure to correct violations may result in housing and student conduct sanctions and a review of the resident's housing agreement. Some violations are subject to immediate contract review.

Training: DHRL staff receives annual training by EH&S on fire safety. Topics include fire extinguisher use, evacuation procedures, and general fire prevention topics. The DHRL relays information to the residents through the local RAs.

Fire Safety Equipment

Fire Alarm Systems: UCF Residential facilities are equipped with fire alarm systems to provide emergency occupant notification throughout the facility. In addition to automatic detection in hazardous areas, manual pull stations are provided for occupant use.

Fire Extinguishers: Residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the location of the fire extinguisher closest to their living area and throughout the facilities. All residents should know how to use a fire extinguisher. If a resident does not know how to use one and wants to learn, he or she should contact a RA. In addition to the extinguishers provided, DHRL recommends that every resident also have their own multipurpose or multi-class extinguisher in the event of an emergency.

Affiliated Housing Fire Extinguishers: Please be aware that there is a fire extinguisher located in the kitchen. To learn how to operate these devices, contact a RA.

Smoke Detectors: All rooms are equipped with smoke detectors. Some of these detectors are connected to the main alarm system and to the UCF Police Department. If the units are tampered with in any way, the UCF Police Department will respond to the alarm. Do not tamper with or cover any fire safety device, as it puts everyone in the community in danger. If a detector or alarm beeps or sounds for an unknown reason, notify DHRL staff immediately.

Affiliated Housing Smoke Detectors: All rooms are equipped with smoke detectors. If residents notice smoke detector(s) are beeping, they should notify the management office immediately, so that proper maintenance can be performed. They should not disable the smoke detector. Disabling or removing a smoke detector, including removing working batteries, is a violation of the law. It is the responsibility of the resident to replace batteries in the smoke detector after they move into the apartment. Residents at The Pointe at Central should contact 407-384-6800, or visit the office immediately, if they need assistance. Residents at Knights Circle should contact 407-362-5036, or visit the office immediately, if they need assistance.

Sprinklers: All UCF residential facilities are equipped with sprinklers. Sprinklers are there to protect both residents and their belongings, and are not to be tampered with or used to hang items on.

Tampering with Fire Safety Equipment: Tampering with any part of a fire protection system or equipment, including false alarms from pull stations; obstructing or tampering with doors, smoke detectors, stove top extinguishers, sprinkler heads, evacuation signs, pipes, hydrants, or exit signs, and illegal use of a fire extinguisher are violations of State Law and are punishable by a up to a \$5,000.00 fine and/or six months jail time. The resident will also be held responsible for Fire Department fines, related clean-up costs, and student conduct violations for instances that occur as a result of accident or intentional acts of endangerment. The resident may also face immediate housing agreement termination.

Affiliated Housing Fire Safety Equipment Checks: Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in affiliated housing should be checked on the first of each month. To ensure that a fire

extinguisher is in operable condition, check that the expiration date has not arrived, the pin is securely in place, and the gauge reads full. The date punched on the yellow tag indicates the date of the extinguisher's last inspection, not the expiration date. All fire extinguishers are due for inspection one year from the date of the last inspection. If residents are concerned about the status of fire safety equipment, they can submit a maintenance work order and they will check the equipment.

Fire Prevention - Cooking and Appliances

Apartment Kitchens: Apartment style facilities are equipped with a full kitchen that includes a full-sized refrigerator, freezer, and oven range. Small cooking appliances are permitted in the kitchen area. Deep fryers are prohibited. Apartment kitchens are also not to be used for things such as class projects, science experiments, and washing hair. Additionally, residents who use apartment kitchens are required to clean up after themselves before leaving.

Residence Halls and Fraternity/Sorority House Rooms without Kitchens: Suites without kitchens are not able to utilize the same appliance options as apartments. For safety and sanitation reasons, the following items and similar are prohibited:

- two sided, open faced, or indoor electric grills (ex. "George Foreman Grill")
- deep fryers
- toaster ovens
- toasters
- electric skillets
- hot plates
- appliances with exposed heating coils

Permitted Appliances Outside of Kitchens: Residents are allowed to have a microwave oven (must be 1,000 watts or less), popcorn poppers, hot pots, and coffeepots with an automatic shut-off feature. Refrigerators (with or without freezers) which do not exceed 5 cubic feet total capacity are permitted. Residents with larger appliances will be asked to remove them and will be subject to a \$25.00 fine, per occurrence. Check with your RA or House manager if you have any question on permitted appliances.

Safe Operation: All appliances used in any UCF residential facility must be listed, in good working condition, and plugged into a power strip with a built in circuit breaker. Any appliance deemed unsafe upon inspection by DHRL will be removed upon request.

Refuse disposal: All garbage resulting from the preparation of food in all facilities must be placed in a garbage bag and taken directly to the area dumpsters to avoid odor, attracting bugs or contributing to unsanitary conditions. Refuse is not permitted to accumulate in excessive quantities and shall not be left in common areas.

Cooking Tips to Avoid Smoke Alarms:

- Always turn on the vent above the stove.
- Remember to use caution when cooking and never leave food that is cooking unattended.
- Remember the stove may heat differently than other stoves, so residents should check their food frequently.
- If a grease fire occurs, use baking soda or flour to extinguish the fire. Never put water on a grease fire.

- Do not use the oven for storage and check it prior to warming it up for use.
- Have a tight fitting lid available to cover the pan until it cools if there is potential problem.

If your smoke detector sounds from cooking in ONLY your apartment, and there is no fire:

- Call your RA or community duty station.
- Give them your name, location, and inform them that a smoke detector is sounding.
- Turn on the vent or fan and open windows, if possible, to clear any smoke.
- DHRL, University Police or Facilities Operations will respond to the scene.

Failure to Comply: A \$25.00 fine per occurrence and a review of the resident's housing agreement may be considered if he or she is found violating these policies.

Fire Prevention - General Safety

Candles, Open Flames and Incense: Due to the potential fire hazard, the use or possession of candles, incense, items that have an open flame, or other related items is strictly prohibited in all UCF residential facilities. This restriction includes unlit, unburned, and unused products.

Circuit Breakers: If an electrical circuit is overloaded, it will trip the circuit. This is a safety feature to prevent electrical fires. If a circuit is tripped, electrical appliances should be unplugged and relocated to different outlets. The resident should then notify the RA. Do not attempt to reset breaker on your own.

Curtains and Draperies: Curtains and draperies are prohibited in all UCF residential facilities. Curtains being used in hallways, closets, or as partitions in rooms or apartments are also prohibited. If a bedroom does not have doors on the closet, the resident may put up a curtain using a tension rod; however, the rod must be 20 inches from the ceiling, in order to allow the sprinkler full coverage in the event of a fire. Failing to follow these policies may result in a sanction or citation.

Decorations: Excessive decorations in rooms and common areas are prohibited. Loose items and coverings may not be placed over doorways. If you have a question about permitted decorations contact your RA. Live cut holiday type trees and excessive amounts of cut vegetation are prohibited inside all UCF residential facilities.

Electrical Cord Guidelines: Extension cords are prohibited in university housing facilities. Only 120v, listed electrical power outlet strips (surge protectors) with a built in manual reset 15-amp circuit breaker are permissible. The maximum allowable length of the cord is six feet, with a maximum of six outlets at the end of the cord. Only one outlet strip may be used per wall outlet, and power strips may not be plugged into one another (daisy-chaining). In addition, non-circuited multi-socket cords, multi-plug adapters, anything with a frayed or damaged cord, and air fresheners or fans with an outlet are strictly prohibited as they can cause a fire. Be very cautious and ask RAs any questions. These policies are in accordance with the Florida State Fire Marshal and state policy.

Prohibited Items and Hazardous Materials: In addition, explosives, flammable or any hazardous substances, or any item or thing of a dangerous nature are strictly prohibited within DHRL facilities. This includes but is not limited to, bug bombs, gases, gasoline, solvents, lighter fluid, propane, non-life support compressed gas cylinders, dive tanks, and welding tanks (full or

empty). Also see Appliances, Candles and Incense, Decorations, Electrical Cord Guidelines, Smoking, and Weapons in this guide for other prohibited items. The DHRL has the final authority in determining an item's classification as hazardous. All items deemed hazardous will be removed upon request.

Smoking: UCF is a smoke free campus. In compliance with the Florida Clean Air Act of 1992, smoking is not permitted in any residence hall, apartment room, hallway, lounge, laundry room, community center, common house space, classroom, or enclosed stairway of any building owned or managed by UCF.

Affiliated Housing Smoking: Smoking is permitted inside apartments, with permission of all tenants. In the event that there becomes a conflict between tenants about smoking within the apartment, the unit will default to a smoke-free environment.

Weapons: Florida Statute 790.115 prohibits the possession, control, or display of any firearm, electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon as defined in Florida statute 790.001, while on the property of UCF. Individuals who possess a license to carry concealed weapons are not exempt. Weapons includes, but is not limited to firearms, ammunition, BB or pellet guns, air soft guns, weapons for sport (including paint ball guns, bow and arrows, diving knives, hunting weapons), stun guns, swords, switch blades, knives, sling shots, martial arts or medieval weapons, and flammables (liquids, solvents, gases). "Toys" that look like actual weapons are also prohibited. In addition, fireworks (including sparklers and smoke bombs), explosives, or dangerous/flammable chemicals of any kind are strictly prohibited in any UCF residential facility or in the surrounding vicinity.

Affiliated Housing Fire Prevention: Prevention is the best insurance against fire. Knights Circle and The Pointe at Central recommend that residents take these simple safety precautions in apartments to prevent fires from starting:

1. Never leave cooking, appliances in use (such as an iron or hair strengthener), or cigarettes unattended.
2. Let cooking grease cool and then pour into a metal can. Never pour hot grease into a plastic container.
3. Never misuse lighters or matches.
4. Avoid cooking while intoxicated, taking medication, or tired.
5. Test smoke detector(s) monthly to make sure they are working.
6. Do not store fuel-operated grills, tools or vehicles (motorcycles) inside the apartment, or in or on stairwells, breezeways, patios, or balconies.
7. Never burn candles or use halogen lamps or cheap extension cords.
8. Never overload extension cords or outlets.
9. Always use electrical items for their intended purposes only.
10. Keep curtains and other materials 12 inches from any outlet.
11. Always keep the apartment free of clutter.
12. Always evacuate if the building alarm sounds.