

## **Fire Safety In Residence Halls**

### **A. Mayville State University facilities house approximately 230-300 students annually.**

These residence halls include a newly renovated building – Agassiz Hall – that meets all current fire safety codes, including an integrated fire alarm and sprinkler system. Berg and Birkelo Halls are older facilities that do not have sprinkler systems, but that do have individual room smoke alarms and building fire alarm systems. Because the community of Mayville does not have a full time, professional fire department, any building alarms or other reported fire incidents are not automatically transmitted to local fire department or emergency services. Any fire incident occurring within a residence hall is generally reported to a student or professional staff member within the residence hall, who will in turn, notifies appropriate university and local fire officials. In the event of an emergency fire incident, students are told to immediately activate the pull station and call 911 to report the fire to local officials.

The current MSU Residence Hall Handbook provides detailed information about practices and measures that ensure the safety of students residing in campus housing.

Highlights include:

1. Each residence hall room is equipped with a smoke detector which is periodically checked by hall staff.
2. Each building has a fire alarm system which is activated by ‘pull alarms’ in the event of a fire incident. In accordance with North Dakota state law, when the building alarm sounds, all residents are required to leave the building. Residents cannot re-enter a building until permitted to by hall staff.
3. The State Board of Higher Education mandates that at least one fire drill be held in each residence hall per term. One “announced” fire drill is conducted each semester. The “announced” fire drill is designed to give students an opportunity to evacuate the residence hall in a non-emergency situation. All residents must leave the building when the alarm sounds for the drill.
4. The use of toasters, microwaves, hotpots, or any other cooking appliances is prohibited in rooms. Cooking appliances can only be used in kitchenettes. Candles and other devices with open flames, as well as incense, are prohibited. Students who attach paper wrap to residence hall room doors must leave a 1 ft. border around the door free from paper.
5. There is a reward of \$500 for information leading to the conviction of any person charged with tampering with fire equipment or providing false reports to law or security officials requiring emergency response (North Dakota Century Code 12.2-1103, Subsection 2). Any person who willfully tampers with fire alarm equipment resulting in a false fire alarm is subject to criminal punishment.
6. Educational programs that promote fire safety are held on a regular basis within the residence halls and include presentations by university staff, as well as local fire and police professionals.

### **B. Fire Safety in Family and Faculty/Staff Housing units.**

The university has an agreement with an external investment group for the use of a four unit apartment building by registered students. Two additional four bedroom buildings are utilized by faculty and staff employees of the university, an on occasion by registered students. These facilities are not owned by the university, but the university does assign students and faculty/staff to these units and supervises repairs and maintenance. The units are supplied with smoke alarms in each bed room, as well as fire extinguishers. There are no central fire alarms or sprinkler systems, but each resident is supplied with information

regarding fire emergencies and contact information. The local fire department conducts an annual inspection of each unit and the university invites residents to fire prevention educational programs.

**C. Fire safety statistics reporting.**

Incidents are reviewed and reported on an annual basis, beginning with the 2009 report, as part of the Campus Crime and Security Survey. This includes data on the numbers and causes of any reported fires within a student housing or related facility, the number of injuries related to any reported fire incident, the number of deaths related to a fire incident, and the value of property damage caused by any reported fires. Information for the annual fire safety report is compiled from ‘Fire Logs’ that are maintained within each residence hall. Each residence hall director is responsible for gathering data about any fire incident, documenting such incidents in their respective fire log and reporting each incident to the Director of Student Life. That information is forwarded to the Vice President for Student Affairs who prepares the annual report. These ‘Fire Logs’ include information about any fire incidents that are either unintentional, intentional or of undetermined nature and include fires caused by: Cooking, smoking materials, open flames, electrical causes, heating equipment, hazardous products, machinery or natural causes.

Data for the most recent reporting years are included below:

**Mayville State University Annual Fire Safety Report**

| Facility            | Unintentional Fire | Intentional Fire | Undetermined Fire | Deaths Related to Fire | Injuries Related to Fire | Property Damage Related to Fire |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Agassiz Hall        |                    |                  |                   |                        |                          |                                 |
| 2011                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2012                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2013                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2014                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2015                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| Berg Hall           |                    |                  |                   |                        |                          |                                 |
| 2011                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2012                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2013                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2014                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2015                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| Birkelo Hall        |                    |                  |                   |                        |                          |                                 |
| 2011                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2012                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2013                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2014                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2015                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| Faculty/Family Apts |                    |                  |                   |                        |                          |                                 |
| 2011                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2012                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2013                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2014                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |
| 2105                | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0                      | 0                        | 0                               |

**D. Annual reporting to campus constituencies.**

Each year (prior to October 1) every enrolled student and employed faculty/staff member receives a written notice that the Fire Safety procedures, statistics and documentation is available electronically at: <http://www.mayvillestate.edu/about-msu/reports-policies/> or in printed format. Students or faculty/staff may request a printed version from the Student Services Office in Main 112C. Likewise, printed copies of the policy are available, upon request, to any prospective student, parent or member of the general public from the Student Services Office.