

# Duke University

## Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act

### 2025 Annual Fire Safety Report

#### PURPOSE

This annual report has been prepared in compliance with the federal *Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act*, an amendment to the *Higher Education Opportunity Act*. This report reflects the calendar years 2022 through 2024 containing specified information about Duke University's fire safety practices and standards. Printed copies of this report and accompanying Fire Statistics Reports are available upon request by contacting the Occupational & Environmental Safety Office (OESO) Fire & Life Safety Division at 2424 Erwin Road, Hock Plaza I, Suite 204, Durham, NC 27705, or by calling 919-684-5609.

View the Annual OESO Fire & Life Safety Division Report for 2025:

[Annual Fire Safety Report 2025](#)

[AFSR.pdf](#)

View the Annual Clery Campus Security Report for 2025:

[Annual Clery Campus Security Report 2025](#)

[2025 Annual Clery Security Report](#)

#### FUNCTION

The OESO Fire & Life Safety Division is responsible for designing, implementing, and managing a vigilant fire safety program to protect the Duke University and Duke University Health System communities. Through regular compliance assessments and proactive risk mitigation efforts, the division ensures safety while supporting the continuity of the university's mission.

#### PROCEDURES

##### FIRE EVACUATIONS

Fire evacuation procedures are designed to ensure the safe and orderly evacuation of all occupants during a fire. Clear guidelines help minimize confusion, reduce risk, and protect lives by confirming everyone knows how to respond quickly and efficiently. Familiarity with evacuation routes, alarm signals, and the emergency assembly area is essential for maintaining safety in any facility. These procedures are part of our commitment to the health and safety of our campus community.

*In the event of a dormitory fire, remember to race to safety, and follow the R.A.C.E. procedures:*

**R** = Remove all people in immediate danger to safety.

**A** = Activate manual fire alarm pull station, and call or have someone call 911.

**C** = Close doors and windows to prevent the spread of smoke and fire.

**E** = Extinguish the fire (if you are able) and/or evacuate.

Do not use elevators. If hallways and/or exit stairwells are not accessible due to thick smoke, return to your room and close the door. Remain calm, open a window, hang a sheet or other light-colored object out of the window to attract the attention of emergency personnel, and then close the window. If there is a phone in the room, call 911, give your building and room number and report that you are trapped. Stuff towels, sheets, or similar materials under all doors leading into corridors. If smoke does enter the room, stay close to the floor. The Duke LiveSafe mobile application provides quick call access to Duke University Police (including the ability to send a text message to Duke University Police).

Once you evacuate the facility, stand clear of the building and report to your designated Emergency Assembly Point (EAP). Exercise caution near roadways and fire lanes, as emergency vehicles may be moving around the building."

Always follow the instructions of fire and police personnel, and do not re-enter the building until they confirm it is safe to do so.

## **STUDENT HOUSING SAFETY POLICIES**

### **ELECTRICAL WIRING and APPLIANCES**

Tampering with electrical wiring, including, but not limited to, the installation of direct-wired ceiling fans and unauthorized entry into electrical panel boxes, is prohibited. Residents are responsible for any damage caused by electrical appliances that are not owned by Duke University.

All electrical appliances shall be **UL® approved** and maintained in good condition. Plugging numerous electrical devices into one outlet with an outlet cube or extension cord may cause a circuit overload, or may cause overheating of the electrical appliances, resulting in a fire. The use of outlet cubes or extension cords are prohibited; use a power strip with a built-in circuit breaker as an alternative.

Heat-producing appliances (e.g., coffee pots, steam irons, hair curling irons, etc.) should never be plugged into multi-plug adaptors, extension cords, or power strips, and should never be left unattended while in use.

### **HALOGEN LIGHTS and LAVA LAMPS**

The OESO Fire & Life Safety Division and Housing and Residence Life (HRL) prohibit halogen lights and lava lamps in residential areas. The extremely high temperatures reached by their bulbs constitute a fire hazard and a potential source of burns. In addition, the geometry of these lamps tend to make them very unstable and prone to tipping over.

### **SMOKING and VAPING**

Duke University seeks to preserve a living and working environment supportive of behaviors that contribute to the physical health and well-being of all community members. Neither smoking nor vaping of any substance is permitted on Duke University or Duke University Health System property or grounds.

### **OPEN FLAMES**

Candles, incense, or any open flame devices are prohibited for use inside university facilities. Battery or electrically-powered candles are recommended as an alternative. If this policy is violated, students and groups will be financially accountable for any damage caused and will be referred to student affairs for disciplinary action. Additionally, students may be subject to revocation of their Housing License for any violation of this policy.

Individuals wishing to utilize live-flame candles in observance of a religious holiday should contact Religious Life at Duke or Jewish Life at Duke for guidance. The OESO Fire & Life Safety Division will not accept requests directly from students. The OESO Fire & Life Safety Division will provide information concerning fire prevention directly to Religious Life at Duke and

Jewish Life at Duke. Candles are not permitted inside any residential facility. Requests for use of live-flame candles in outdoor locations need to follow the same process and are subject to approval on a case-by-case basis.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

### **INCIDENT REPORTING**

All individuals, living groups, and cohesive units must adhere to university fire safety policies. The best way to report an emergency is by calling 911. Campus-related fires and all smoke incidents should be reported to the Duke University Police Department (DUPD) at 919-684-2444. All incidents, regardless of size or nature of origin, are investigated by DUPD. All fires should subsequently also be reported to your Resident Coordinator.

False alarms, damage, theft, or misuse of fire detection, alarm or extinguishing equipment are punishable under the criminal law provision of the North Carolina Statute 14-286 and will likely result in the cancellation of a student's housing contract in addition to possible adjudication of the matter through the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

### **OESO FIRE & LIFE SAFETY DIVISION - FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

The OESO Fire & Life Safety Division has a fire emergency monitoring program, which augments the university's capabilities to better protect students, staff, faculty, and visitors. During normal duty hours, the OESO Fire & Life Safety Division staff monitors emergency radio communications and responds to fire alarms and fire emergency calls on campus, including clinics, research buildings, and the hospital. The goal is to aid responding police and fire units early into an emergency as needed to save lives and protect university assets. For incidents after normal working hours, DUPD will contact the appropriate OESO Fire & Life Safety Division on-call personnel.

### **MARINE LAB**

The OESO Fire & Life Safety Division staff educate Duke University Marine Lab (DUML) employees on fire and emergency procedures, including annual hands-on fire extinguisher training.

## **TRAINING and EDUCATION**

### **STUDENT TRAINING**

In accordance with the *Higher Education Opportunity Act*, Duke University provides annual fire safety training and evacuation procedures for all on-campus housing facilities, residents, and staff. All students receive continuous fire and life safety training throughout their time on campus to ensure preparedness and awareness in the event of an emergency.

A key component of this effort is the university's new Fire Safety Orientation Program, provided to students as part of their onboarding and housing process. This program will educate students on all fire and life safety features specific to their residence halls. Additionally, they will learn the importance of following emergency evacuation procedures to include knowing their designated Emergency Assembly Point (EAP). By equipping students with this critical knowledge, Duke University promotes a culture of safety and responsibility that supports the well-being of the entire campus community.

### **FIRE DRILLS**

The OESO Fire & Life Safety Division conducts four fire drills annually in student housing—two per semester—as part of Duke University's commitment to campus safety and preparedness. Drills are conducted on-site by trained staff who oversee and evaluate each exercise, providing detailed documentation and feedback. During drills, all building occupants

must evacuate and report to their designated EAP. Afterward, participants receive a safety briefing covering evacuation performance, areas for improvement, and fire safety basics. These drills promote fire code compliance while fostering a culture of preparedness and shared responsibility within the Duke community.

## **FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING PROGRAM**

OESO Fire & Life Safety Division staff conduct numerous fire extinguisher training classes throughout the year. Attendees typically include university students, faculty, staff members, and DUPD officers. Table 1 shows the number of classes and participants in 2024.

**Table 1 - Fire Extinguisher Training Classes–2024**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
University – Number of Trainees	0	25	98	31	0	60	17	0	0	55	202	0
University – Number of Classes	0	2	4	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	5	0

## **FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS**

Every student housing facility at Duke University is equipped with fire and life safety systems to ensure the protection of residents, staff, and property. Fire extinguishers are strategically placed in common areas such as corridors, kitchens, and laundry rooms for quick accessibility in an emergency. Manual fire alarm pull stations are installed at all required exits and stairwell doors, allowing occupants to promptly activate the building’s alarm system. All corridors are protected by automatic smoke detectors that are integrated directly into the building’s fire alarm system. When the fire alarm system is activated, the building’s protection system will operate. This includes flashing strobes, horns, and/or voice alerts—and immediately notifies DUPD and City of Durham Fire Department. Additionally, all residential sprinkler systems are inspected quarterly, and fire alarm systems are continuously monitored by Duke University Police to ensure swift response and the ongoing safety of the campus community. Table 2, below, reflects the fire safety system features for each student housing facility.

**Table 2–Student Housing 2024 Fire Safety System Features**

<i>Building Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Sprinklered</i>	<i>Fire Extinguishers</i>	<i>Fire Alarm</i>	<i># of Fire Drills Annually</i>
300 Swift Ave	300 Swift Ave	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
301 Swift Ave Townhouse Apts	301 Swift Ave	No	Yes	Spot Detector – local	N/A
Alsbaugh	1344 Campus Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Bassett	1332 Campus Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Bell Tower	40 Brodie Gym Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Blackwell	51 Brodie Gym Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Brown	1328 Campus Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Craven Quad	440 Chapel Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Crowell Quad	315 Towerview Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4

East Residence Hall	1312 Campus Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Edens 1A	419 Towerview Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Edens 1B	415 Towerview Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Edens 1C	423 Towerview Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Edens 2A	113 Edens Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Edens 2C	117 Edens Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Edens 3A (Decker Tower)	109 Edens Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Edens 3B (Mitchell Tower)	105 Edens Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Epworth	2 Epworth Dorm La.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Few Quad	420 Chapel Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Giles	1352 Campus Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Gilbert-Addoms	1638 Campus Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Hollows A	407 Towerview Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Hollows B	409 Towerview Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Keohane 4A	101 Wannamaker Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Keohane 4B	101 Wannamaker Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Keohane 4D	101 Wannamaker Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Keohane 4E	427 Towerview Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Kilgo Quad	104 Union Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Pegram	1340 Campus Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
Randolph	50 Brodie Gym Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Smart House	1402 Faber St.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Southgate	1400 W. Main St.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Trinity	610 Broad St.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Wannamaker	102 Wannamaker Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4
West Residence Hall	1360 Campus Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Wilson	1320 Campus Dr.	No	Yes	Yes	4

## STUDENT HOUSING –INCIDENTS

### REPORTED STATISTICS

The following table contains information of fire incidents that occurred in student housing during the three-year calendar period from 2022-2024. This information is required to be submitted to the United States Department of Education. Additional information on the *Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act* and the 2024 Fire Statistics Report can be found by visiting the OESO Fire & Life Safety Division website at: [Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act - CFSRTKA | Duke OESO](#)

Fire Statistics for Student Housing (2022-2024)								
	Facility	Incidents	Date	Cause	Estimated Property Damage (USD)	Estimated Content Damages (USD)	Injuries	Deaths
2024	All Facilities	0						
2023	All Facilities	0						
2022	Few Quad 420 Chapel Dr.	2	2/20/2022	Unintentional-dryer	\$1,500	\$500	0	0
			4/22/2022	Unintentional-magnified light ignited bag & books	\$150	\$180	0	0
	Keohane 4B 101 Wannamaker Dr.	1	12/8/2022	Intentional-Under Investigation	\$0	\$0	0	0
	West Residence Hall 1360 Campus Dr.	1	1/26/2022	Intentional-Under Investigation	\$0	\$0	0	0

## COMMITMENT

Duke University, in partnership with the OESO Fire & Life Safety Division, remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting the safety and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The *Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act* annual fire safety report demonstrates this ongoing dedication by highlighting the university's continued efforts to maintain the highest standards of fire and life safety across all residential and campus facilities.

Through coordinated training programs, regular fire drills, comprehensive safety policies, and an experienced team of fire and life safety professionals, Duke fosters a campus-wide culture of preparedness, accountability, and resilience. The OESO Fire & Life Safety Division will continue to lead these efforts with professionalism and care, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for the academic and personal development of the Duke community.