Purpose/Summary: This policy defines the fire safety expectations for the residence halls. The policy also provides a list of materials banned from residence halls that are serious fire safety risks.

Flammable items are not permitted due to inherent fire hazards. Because of the potential hazard that all candles pose, whether they are burned or unburned, ordinary or decorative, they are not permitted on-campus in our residence halls. Candles found in student rooms will be confiscated and the resident(s) of the room will be charged $25 per candle and will be subject to disciplinary action. All confiscated items will be removed from students’ rooms and disposed of appropriately by Residential Learning Staff. Students are asked to bring appliances and hair equipment (curling irons and straighteners) that have an automatic turn-off feature. In addition, the following items are not allowed in residential facilities due to risk of fire:

- Candles
- Incense
- Deep fryers
- Electric skillets
- Toaster ovens
- Coffee pots with hot plate
- Oil popcorn poppers
- Crockpots
- Space heaters
- Live Christmas trees
- Fireworks
- Grills
- Motorized vehicles
- Hazardous flammable materials (gas, propane, lighter fluid, chemicals, etc.)
- Paper and/or fabric covering more than 30% of the wall
- Halogen lamps
- Any appliance with an open coil or open flame

Tampering includes the following but is not limited to: pulling false alarms, discharging fire extinguishers, removing exit signs, and interfering with smoke detectors and sprinklers. Students responsible will be assessed for all damages that occur as a result of their actions and for the hourly rate of the repair person’s labor. All violators are subject to judicial action and possible criminal prosecution. The civil penalty for malicious use of fire and safety equipment is up to a $500 fine and/or 90 days in jail. Students damaging or tampering with life safety equipment will be assessed for all damages related to replacement, repair, and associated labor.
There is a fire extinguisher located in or around each apartment. If a fire extinguisher is used, please report it to maintenance so that appropriate action can be taken. Appropriate billing of charges will occur in cases of fire where residents are found to be negligent or in violation of fire extinguisher use policies.

Fire alarms have been installed throughout the residence halls for student safety. In the event that a fire alarm should sound, students must leave the building immediately through the nearest exit. Become familiar with the evacuation diagram located on each hallway. Residents are instructed to remain outside of the building until the Fire Department gives the order that the building is safe and residents may return to their rooms. Residents who remain in the residence halls after an alarm has sounded are subject to arrest and University judicial action. Intentionally causing a false fire alarm is considered a serious infraction and will be dealt with accordingly. The Fire Department responds to all fire alarms regardless of their origin and the cost is charged to the Housing Department.