

Get Out *and* Stay Alive

A program designed to help save lives in Student Housing and college dormitories.



This is college sophomore Brad Olsen's room after the fire in his apartment. Evidence indicated that Brad fought to stay alive and may have escaped the fire if smoke alarms in his apartment had working batteries in them.

For More Information On This Subject and Other Related Subjects Please Contact United States Fire Administration

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GETTING OUT

FEEL THE DOOR HANDLE

If the door handle is hot, don't open it

Go to a window and call for help

If the handle is not hot, open cautiously

Check for smoke or fire before going out

GET OUT OF THE BUILDING BEFORE PHONING FOR HELP

Don't take time to phone before leaving

Get out and find a phone

PULL THE FIRE ALARM ON YOUR WAYOUT

DON'T LOOK FOR OTHER PEOPLE OR GATHER YOUR STUFF

Knock on doors as you leave

Yell "FIRE!" as you leave

Don't hesitate or stray from your path as you leave

CRAW LOW TO THE FLOOR

Thick smoke can make it impossible to see

Toxic chemicals from smoke can be deadly in minutes.

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CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU

You may keep the fire from spreading

You may protect your possessions from fire and smoke damage

IF YOU CAN'T GET OUT, GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION

Yell and scream

Hang a sheet from the window

Stay low, there is less smoke and poisonous gasses close to the floor

PREVENTION

Fires can be prevented from starting if you take some simple precautions:

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREVENTION

Assign a non-impaired "event monitor"

Clean up immediately after parties and take all trash outside

Do not overload electrical outlets

Keep space heaters and halogen lamps away from flammables

Put out candles and incense when unattended

Extinguish all smoking materials thoroughly

Don't smoke while tired or impaired

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PROTECTION

You can also protect yourself from becoming trapped in a fire situation by following some important suggestions:

CHECK SMOKE ALARMS

Be sure they are in proper working condition

Install new batteries at the beginning of each semester

PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES

Know where all exits are building

Practice your escape plan

TAKE FIRE ALARMS SERIOUSLY

Do not ignore fire alarms

Do not wait to see fire or smoke

Do not worry about grabbing your stuff

Tampering with smoke alarms, pulling false alarms or misusing fire protection equipment may be a criminal offense. These are dangerous pranks and should be reported immediately.

MAKE A PLAN

You can make a plan for your own fire safety and protection as soon as you get home. Use the following checklist:

Check to make sure your smoke alarms are working -Change the batteries

Find all possible exits from your room or residence

Make a fire escape route plan that includes two escape routes

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Practice your fire escape route plan

Perform a "home inspection" for fire and safety hazards

Tell you roommates about you plan

Call you local fire department fore more information about student housing safety

"What s so ironic is Joanna was so full of life and so energetic all the time. You never think something like this could happen."

Julie, sorority sister of



Joanna Howell

"We're all like a big family here, and it feels like we lost part of our family."

The words of Sarah, a student at Greenville College, Illinois, talking about Joel Pierce, a music major who died in a dorm fire eleven days before he was to marry his college sweetheart.

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"We tried to save them, but there was just no safe way to get in. No matter how good firefighters are, we can't always save them...prevention is the key... they need to stay alert about fire hazards."

Chief Dan Jones

Chapel Hill Department

"You can't replace Brad, It's hard not to see him, because I miss him."

The words of Andy, friend of

Eau Claire fire victim Brad Olson

"I miss the family we had. It just changes your entire life. I miss my life."

Mother of Ben Woodruff

Chapel Hill fire victim

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