

2009 Annual Fire Safety Report

**University of California
Campus Fire Marshals**



University of California,
BERKELEY

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INTRODUCTION

This Annual Fire Safety Report is prepared and issued each year by the UC Berkeley Campus Fire Marshal in order to provide the campus community and its leaders with current information on fire safety systems and procedures. The report is also issued to meet the fire-safety-related requirements of the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act, which requires that certain information pertaining to fire safety be made available to the general public.

POLICIES §668.49(b)

The majority of the student residents, approximately 8500, are living in dormitories and apartments owned and operated by the Campus's Resident Student Services Program Department (RSSP). There are approximately 570 students living in the International House Berkeley (I-House), an independent, self-supporting, non-profit organization affiliated with the university. About 175 students are living in the university owned and Berkeley Student Cooperative (BSC) operated non-profit housing cooperatives that provide affordable housing to the UC Berkeley Students.

The fire safety policy for each one of these entities varies slightly. A full version of the respective fire safety policy can be found:

For Resident Student Services Program (RSSP) Residents:

Bear Necessities - Guide to Living on Campus at UC Berkeley can be found:

http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/student/Bear_Necessities_Guide.pdf

For International House (I-House) Residents:

International House Berkeley – Resident Handbook can be found:

<http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/I/residents/handbook1011.pdf>

For Berkeley Student Cooperative (BSC) Residents:

BSC Policy Manual can be found:

<http://berkeleystudentcooperative.org/health-and-safety/fire-safety>

Excerpts from each organization are listed below:

a. Safety Policies §668.49(b)(4)

i. Use of Portable Electrical Appliances

RSSP - Bear Necessities - Guide to Living on Campus at UC Berkeley - Pg. 23

- *8D. Use of unapproved appliances. *Any appliance, other than a personal iron, UL approved coffee makers, a small microwave and/or mini refrigerator, which has an open coil or creates heat or flame, is not permitted outside of designated kitchen space.*
- *8G. Halogen lamps and decorative string(s) of lights in or around any residential facility is not permitted.*

I-House Resident Handbook

The following electrical appliances are approved, must be used responsibly and be good working order, free of wiring defect, and approved for use by Underwriters' Laboratory [UL]. All cords and plugs must be grounded and free of frays.

- *One microwave and one micro fridge are allowed in any single or double room. The maximum storage capacity permitted for refrigerators is 4.5 cubic feet with a maximum height of 35 inches. The maximum allowable wattage for microwave ovens is 800 watts.*
- *Only one coffee maker may be in use at a time in any residence hall room. Due to a sensitive heat/fire detection system, hot air popcorn poppers may not be used in residence hall rooms, nor are other food related appliances such as toasters, toaster ovens, crock pots, hot plates, waffle irons, rice cookers, broilers, etc.*
- *No modifications to, or changes in, electrical wiring is permitted. No "splicing", "octopuses", or modification devices of any kind may be used to "add plugs" in your room or suite. UL approved, grounded power strips with fuses may be used only for computer and computer related hardware.*
- *Paper or plastic may not be used to cover any light or light fixture. No modifications may be made to you university-provided desk lamp, if applicable.*
- *Lighting fixtures, including holiday lights, are not allowed to be strung on any surface outside rooms.*
- *Use of portable electric heaters in your room is prohibited. If there is a problem with the heat in your room, please report the problem using a "Worktag Request".*
- *Use of halogen lamps in your room is prohibited. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued a warning to consumers that the light bulbs in most halogen lamps can reach very high temperature and easily start a fire if they come in contact with curtains, clothes, or other flammable materials. Due to the increased fire and safety risk, halogen lamps are prohibited.*

BSC Owner's Manual

- *The BSC discourages the use of any appliance other than a personal iron, UL approved coffee makers, a small microwave, and/or mini refrigerator in bedrooms. The use of any appliance that has an open coil or creates heat or flame is strongly discouraged outside designated kitchen areas.*
- *Members should also avoid halogen lamps and decorative light strings due to their high fire danger.*

ii. Smoking

RSSP - Bear Necessities - Guide to Living on Campus at UC Berkeley - Pg. 22

- *Smoking in the residential facilities or within twenty-five (25) feet of an entrance, exit, operable window, or designated children's play area. *This restriction includes smoking on balconies, entrance steps, wooden stages, entrance landings, decks, porches, interior stairwells, fire escapes and entrance access ramps, unless the area is specifically designated as a smoking area.*

I-House Resident Handbook

UC Berkeley is committed to providing a healthy, smoke-free environment for students, faculty, and staff. No smoking is permitted in residence halls or dining facilities. In accordance with local law, additional smoke-free areas are within 25 feet of any building, courtyard, exterior walkway or balcony. This distance must be increased if the smoke is traveling towards a building or any window. There is a

