



FIRE CHIEF: DAVID WEEKS

# NEW PALTZ FIRE DEPT.

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**FIRE SAFETY**

The New Paltz Fire Department urges parents to discuss campus fire safety with their college-bound students before going to college. Almost 4,000 structure fires occur annually in dormitories, fraternities and sororities across the U.S., and the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control says that every student and parent must discuss fire prevention steps a student can take to be safe before they go to school, as well as understand potential fire dangers when making housing selections and knowing how to exit a building in a fire emergency.

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control also says parents and students should make informed decisions when selecting furniture, electronics and other items for a student's college apartment. Items such as halogen lamps, candles, ceiling decorations, extension cords and small appliances can contribute to fires if improperly used or unmonitored. Look for flame resistant materials when choosing items to furnish rooms.

When selecting college housing, the New Paltz Fire Department offers these tips:

- Look for fully sprinklered housing when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing.
- Make sure your apartment has smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside every sleeping area and on each level. For the best protection, all smoke alarms should be interconnected so that when one sounds they all sound.
- Make sure your apartment is equipped with Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors if needed. If unsure your apartment requires CO detectors contact your local Building/Fire/Safety Inspector.
- Test all smoke/CO alarms at least monthly.
- Never remove batteries or disable the alarm/detector.
- Make sure you are provided with and know the location of an appropriately sized fire extinguisher.
- Have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room.
- When the smoke, carbon monoxide, or fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.
- During a power outage, use a flashlight. Never use candles.
- Cook only where it is permitted.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Cook only when you are alert, not sleepy or drowsy from medicine or alcohol.
- Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a barbeque grill, fire pit, or chimenea.
- Use a surge protector for your computer and plug the protector directly into an outlet.

*“Campus fire safety really begins with a frank discussion between parents and the student before that student leaves home for college,” said **State Fire Administrator Skip Nerney**. “Fire is predictable and preventable. Every student must make choices that help prevent fires from starting in the first place and, if a fire occurs, to know how to exit a building immediately without second thought.”*