Cornell University
Environmental Health and Safety

University Fire Marshals Office
2020 Annual Fire Inspection Training
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History

Annual Fire Inspections –

• Conducted since 1969 as a result of a 1967 multi-fatal dorm fire at Cornell University

• Seton Hall multi-fatal dorm fire of 2000 led to NYS Governor’s Task Force on Campus Fire Safety
Results of the Governors Task Force

• Campus fire safety advisory board
• Implement an enhanced fire safety training curriculum
• Annual inspection of all educational buildings in New York State
• Enhanced detection/alarms in dorms
• Install sprinklers in dorms during rehab
Impacts to Cornell

• Annual Inspections of all Cornell buildings that support the operations of the University. Classrooms, Research Areas (Labs), Physical Education and Dining Facilities

• All Dorm Rooms, Living Units and Greek Housing

• Endowed and Contract College Facilities
New 2020 Codes

We still be inspected under International Family of Codes with New York State enhancements 2015

Spring of this year we will be a transition from 2015 Codes to 2020 NYS Uniform Codes. \textit{This will “not” have an impact our 2020 Annual Fire Inspections}

- International Fire Code – IFC
- International Property Maintenance Code - IPMC
- International Existing Building Code - IEBC
- International Residential Code - IRC
- International Building Code - IBC
Inspection Process

• The University Fire Marshal’s Office (UFM) provides stewardship of all Annual Fire Inspections with New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (NYSOFPC), Ithaca Fire Department (IFD), Town of Ithaca (TOI), Village of Cayuga Heights (VCH)
• The UFM coordinates all inspections with all Campus Stakeholders
• Must be conducted while the University is in session
Inspection Process Cont’d

• Per New York State Law Hard Copies must be sent to The University’s Presidents Office
• UFM Office receives PDF copies of Inspection Reports and distributes them electronically to the Respective Stakeholders to speed up the violation abatement process
• Abatement Extensions are reviewed by the UFM Office and if valid negotiate with the appropriate Inspection Agencies
2019 Annual Fire Inspection Recap

755 Total Inspections

- NYS OFPC = 671
- Ithaca Fire Department = 84
Total Violations

- 2017 = 1,636 Total Violations
- 2018 = 1,357 Total Violations
- 2019 = 1,052 Total Violations

Violations decreased by 584 from 2017 to 2019
2019 Top 10 Violations

- Improper use of Extension Cords = 139
- Candles/Incense “Open Flame” Residential = 82
- Illegal Power Taps = 59
- Electrical Hazard Open Junction Boxes = 57
- Electrical Hazards – Frayed Cords 50
- Swinging Fire Doors Do not close and latch = 45
- Obstructed Means of Egress = 43
- Fire Doors Propped Open = 34
- Multi Plug Adapters = 26
- Storage – Obstructed Sprinklers = 20
Electrical Ignition Sources

- Electrical appliances and cords must be in good condition and maintained properly
- Never use plug adapters or extension cords - use power strips with internal breakers and surge protection
- Never connect one power strip to another
- Multi-head lights and halogen lights are not allowed in residential rooms
- Lightbulbs must be of the appropriate wattage as the original bulbs
- Hover boards are not allowed in campus housing
Noted Violations
Noted Violations
Portable Electric Space Heaters

- Only “UL” listed and labeled electric heaters
- Must have an “Emergency Shutoff” Tip Over Feature
- Must be plugged directly into an approved wall outlet and never used with an extension cord or power strip
- Avoid operating within 3 feet of any combustible Materials (e.g. curtains, paper, plastic, cloth, etc.)
Portable Electric Space Heaters cont’d

- Must be turned off and if possible, unplugged when not in use and at the end of each business day
- Only operate in locations for which they are listed
- Always read and follow manufacturer’s guidelines

Exit Signs

• The Lifeline of a building
• Pathway to escape
• Clear paths with alternatives
• Visible from any direction of travel
Noted Violations
Noted Violations
Fuel sources must be controlled

- Lint in clothes dryer traps must be cleaned out after each use
- Papers and boxes must not be allowed to accumulate - Good housekeeping is essential
- Unwanted items must not be stored in corridors or stairways
- Trash must be removed daily
- Nothing can be stored within 18/24 inches of the ceiling (except at walls)
- Common areas (shared spaces) must be kept in good condition and free of trash
Noted Violations
Life Safety Systems – unobstructed and functioning

The following work together to enhance life safety:

- Detectors
- Alarms
- Manual Pull Boxes
- Suppression systems
- Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Fire Doors
- Exit Signs
Reminders

• Take notes while escorting the Inspectors
• Do not engage in verbal disputes with Inspectors, if a situation arises contact Ron Flynn as soon as possible
• Abate any violations on the spot
• Violations that cannot be abated within 30-days, contact me as soon as possible to discuss plan
• Schedule flexibility, 15-20 minutes prior and after
Reminders cont’d

• When filling out service requests to abate violations,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Code</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Service Definition / Examples</th>
<th>Suggested Crew(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REGCOMP</td>
<td>Regulatory Compliance</td>
<td>Time-sensitive work related to an authority having jurisdiction (OFPC)</td>
<td>Any</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**New Law for Orders to Remedy, $1,000.00 per day**

• The University Fire Marshal’s Office is your advocate to challenge violations and will engage the respective Inspection Agency

• The University Fire Marshal approves all Abatement Extension Requests and negotiates all extension requests
Pre-Inspection Tips and Check List

• Remove all Extension Cords and replace them with Power Strips.
• Extension Cords not being used shall be disconnected from the outlet and properly coiled up
• No Power Strips can be plugged into another Power Strip or Extension Cord. Device used must be plugged directly into an outlet
• Repair/Replace Frayed Electric Cords
• Have any Junction Boxes or Electrical Covers replaced so that connections and wires are not exposed
• Labeled Fire Doors cannot be propped open. Remove any prop open devices
Pre-Inspection Tips and Check List Cont’d

• Properly secure any Gas Cylinders to prevent them from falling over by using Chain and or Straps to a fixed point
• Mechanical Rooms are clear of excessive Combustible Materials and they are neat and orderly
• Check Flame Retardant requirements for Curtains/Drapes in Assembly Spaces of 50 or more people and Lab Spaces
• Ensure that all Hallways and Stairwells are free of obstructions especially Combustible Material Storage
• Ensure that all Exit Signs are Illuminated and in Good Condition
Pre-Inspection Tips and Check List Cont’d

• All Ceiling Tiles are in place and not broken
• Ensure that all Fire and Life Safety equipment is accessible and not obstructed
• Maintain Unobstructed Exits and Egress
2020 Inspections

► First Inspections February 24, 2020 - March 6, 2020

► Re-inspections April 27, 2020 – May 1, 2020
Summary

• Fire Safety and Fire Code Compliance is a year round process and not just once a year

• Keep working with Building Occupants to reduce violations such as:
  • Improper Use of Extension Cords
  • Multi-Plug Adapters
  • Frayed Power Cords
  • Propped Fire Doors
  • By doing so our Campus Violations could be reduced by almost 50%

• Keep up the great work that you are doing, together we can make a difference!
1967 Fire Memorial
Installed by Sage Chapel 2019

In memory of nine vibrant and brilliant young scholars who died in a tragic fire at the Cornell Heights Residential Club on April 5, 1967:

Martha Fane Brandon - Age 21
Sukut Chang Cheng - Age 22
Peter Cook - Age 19
Ceil Lynne Karr - Age 22
Joan Catherine McCormick - Age 21
Jeffrey William Smith - Age 21
Deborah Ann West - Age 21
Sandra Christian Weldin - Age 21
John Allen Finch, Ph.D. - Age 37

Their families, friends, classmates, colleagues, and the entire Cornell community promise never to forget them.

Dedicated October 4, 2019
Questions
I will be quick to meet your needs