

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



**Division of Fire Safety
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

Office: NH Incident Management Center, 110 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH

Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305

603-223-4289, FAX 603-223-4294

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964 ARSON HOTLINE 1-800-400-3526

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

Mary MacCaffrie

Public Education Administrator

or

State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan

N.H. State Fire Marshal's Office

September is Campus Fire Safety Month

At the request of State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan, New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan has declared September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

Governor Hassan issued a Proclamation establishing September as Campus Fire Safety Month as part of a nationwide effort to raise fire and life safety awareness amongst students residing on and off campus. August and September are typically the worst time of year for fatal campus-related housing fires.

“For most students, the last fire safety training they have received was in grade school, but with new independence comes new responsibilities. It is important that both on- and off-campus students understand fire risks and know the preventative measures that could save their lives,” said State Fire Marshal Degnan. It is the intent that through Campus Fire Safety Month students will realize they are not invincible, that fires do happen in campus-related settings, and that students should take steps to protect themselves no matter where they live.

Leading causes of fires in both on- and off-campus residences are associated with the usage of candles, careless cooking and careless smoking. Paying attention to a few simple precautions could mean the difference between life and death.

We encourage schools across the state to provide educational programs throughout the school year and for schools and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing. Marshal Degnan says, “Schools should take the necessary steps to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems and smoke alarms, and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.”

Marshal Degnan added, “Having working smoke alarms and an emergency escape plan should be a priority for everyone. For maximum protection, consider residing in fire sprinklered occupancies. These systems quickly control the fire causing little or no damage, preventing the loss of life and property.”

