

Fire Safety Report for Calendar Year 2010

Federal law requires institutions of higher education with campus housing to annually report on campus fire safety.

For calendar year 2010, the year for this report, there were no fires on the Dominican University of California campus. There were no deaths or injuries as a result of fires, and there was no property damage as a result of fires.

Residence Hall Fire Safety

Each of the campus residence halls has smoke detectors and alarms, a sprinkler system, pull stations, and fire extinguishers on each floor. All hall systems are monitored by Bay Alarm, a company that communicates directly with the San Rafael Fire Department when there is an alarm.

As stated in the fire safety section of the current student handbook, any student living on campus signs an agreement stating that the student:

understands and agrees to observe all fire safety measures. All persons are required to evacuate the residence hall any time an alarm sounds and follow evacuation instructions given by the hall staff. During an evacuation, staff may enter individual rooms to verify evacuation. No person is allowed to re-enter the hall during an evacuation until approved by staff or emergency personnel. Intentional misuse of, tampering with, or obstruction of the fire safety system or firefighting equipment (e.g. fire alarm, fire extinguishers, emergency exit signs, smoke detectors, fire sprinkler heads, etc.) is a violation of university policy and local ordinances (p. 164 of the current Student Handbook).

Any person sending a false alarm or violating any provision of the federal or state fire laws is subject to a fine imposed by Dominican University, civil prosecution, and possible dismissal from Dominican. Failure to exit a residence hall during a building alarm will result in a \$100 fine (p. 157).

In addition, no resident may possess fireworks, highly flammable Materials, or combustible substances (p. 164)

Dominican's housing agreement includes rules, restrictions, and policies that have been developed to enhance fire safety on campus, particularly in the residence halls. Dominican prohibits the burning of candles and incense (page 156). The following items are not allowed in residence hall rooms: space heaters or air conditioning units, electric blankets, halogen lamps, small kitchen appliances (including toasters, ovens, coffee makers, espresso machines, rice steamers, etc.). Open element appliances are an extreme fire hazard and are strictly forbidden. Any electrical device in a residence hall room must be UL-approved.

Each residence hall has at least one mandatory fire drill each semester, and usually three to four per academic year. A fire safety presentation is part of the hall orientation made by the hall staff.

Dominican University of California works closely with the San Rafael Fire Department and there are regular safety inspections on campus.

In accordance with San Rafael fire code regulations, a maximum of ten people is permitted in a residence hall room at any time.

Both The Office of Student Life and Campus Security maintain a log of all fires on campus. Please report any fires to those units.

Review of Fire Safety Policies

Dominican's fire safety policies are reviewed at least once annually by the Vice President for Student Life, the Campus Safety Committee, and Campus Security. Those persons will determine what improvements or changes are necessary to enhance fire safety on campus.

Disclosure of Campus Fire Statistics

Dominican University of California submits a detailed report of fire incidents on campus annually to the federal government. As reported above, there were no fires in any of the campus residence halls or in any campus building during calendar year 2010. To see a full copy of this report, please speak with the Vice President for Student Life, Heritage and Alumni House. The phone number at which the VP for Student Life can be reached is 415 485-3282.

Evacuation Procedures

Dominican University posts in hallways of campus buildings information on evacuation procedures in case of fire. Please be sure you know how to exit all rooms and buildings safely in case of emergency. Students in the residence halls learn about safely evacuating their buildings in case of fire. Resident students should always know where all fire exits are located in their buildings.

The Dominican University Safety Committee reviews evacuation procedures and will announce any changes to them, as well as any changes to the fire safety program.