

## SUNY CANTON

### Top Ten Fire Safety Inspection Violations in Dormitory Rooms

1. All lamps need to be equipped with lamp shades and light bulbs of the appropriate wattage for the fixture. Only lamps which are UL (Underwriters Laboratories) listed should be utilized which are marked with the maximum wattage bulb that can be used. Halogen lamps are prohibited.  
**Combustible materials such as bedding wall hangings or clothes should be kept clear of any lamp, bulb or decorative string lights.**
2. Candles, incense and similar open flame-producing items are not allowed in campus residence halls. Wickless candles and warmers are acceptable. **Smoking materials are considered open flame-producing and are prohibited in all campus buildings and only allowed in designated areas on campus.**
3. Components of the means of egress (exit path) shall be unobstructed at all times. No personal items (trash, shoes etc.) or furnishings should be stored in corridors or any exit path. Doors should be able to open easily and fully with no obstructions. **Your room front door (opening into the corridor) is a “fire door” and should be kept closed and not be propped open and left unattended at any time.** Fire doors when properly utilized will delay or stop the fire from spreading into other parts of the building.
4. No draperies, tapestries, or any other decorative materials should hang from ceilings. Doors and walls should not have more than 10% of the wall or door area covered with combustible decorative material such as posters, pictures or textiles. Combustible materials will add fuel to the fire rapidly increasing its magnitude.
5. Unfused multi-plug, cube adapters and power strips are prohibited. Multi-plugs and power strips must have overcurrent protection, plugged directly into electrical receptacles and not combined with any other power strips, extension cords or other multi-plug adapters. **Power strips should not be used for refrigerator or microwave power sources. Refrigerator and microwaves should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle.** All cables and cords should be placed in safe locations to reduce damage, tripping and fire hazards. Promptly replace any cables or cords which become damaged to avoid frayed or exposed wires causing a shock and or fire hazard.
6. Combustible materials should be kept clear of ignition sources including, luminaires, heaters or any electrical or heat producing devices. Combustible materials should not be stored in corridors, stairways or exits.

7. No excessive accumulations of trash, rubbish or combustible waste materials shall be allowed in dormitory rooms. Accumulations of trash and combustible wastes attract rodents and insects and can become health and fire safety hazards if left unabated. **The student residents should “Take out the Trash” promptly upon filling their room containers.**
  
8. Cooking or cooking appliances are prohibited in dormitory rooms (sleeping units). Some examples of prohibited items are hot plates, toasters, toaster ovens, rice cookers and grills. Devices such as coffeepots, electric kettles and microwave ovens are **not** considered to be cooking appliances. The suites at Kennedy Hall are considered dwelling units which included kitchens in the building design allowing cooking and cooking appliances to be used.
  
9. Storage shall be maintained 2 feet or more below the ceiling in non-sprinklered areas of buildings or a minimum of 18 inches below sprinkler heads in sprinklered areas of buildings. Combustible storage within these areas can greatly contribute to the fuel source causing fire to spread more rapidly. Improper storage can also block a sprinkler head impairing its primary function of suppressing a fire. **In the newly renovated wings there are wall sprinklers installed over the armoires. Any Storage on the top of the armoires in front of the sprinkler head will deter the flow of water and cause the fire to grow more rapidly.**
  
10. It is prohibited for anyone to tamper with, remove or disturb any fire protection system or component. Please make sure smoke or heat detectors remain uncovered and properly secured to the ceiling. **A covered detector will be considered as evidence of smoking activities taking place in the room!** Ensure nothing is hanging from a sprinkler pipe, head or protective cage including clothes hangers, towels, wires etc. Also ensure no fire alarm pull station or fire extinguisher is blocked or hidden from view and remains accessible at all times.

**Please use the Fire Safety inspections that you will perform as a learning tool for your residents, not only for safety here at school but for anywhere including your/their homes!**

**SUNY Canton EH&S Department Contacts:**

Derek Converse – EH&S Coordinator – 386-7631 – [conversed@canton.edu](mailto:conversed@canton.edu)

Jeffrey Merrill – Campus Safety Specialist – 386-7997 – [merrillj@canton.edu](mailto:merrillj@canton.edu)

Miranda Turnbull - Campus Safety Specialist - 386-7197 - [turnbullm@canton.edu](mailto:turnbullm@canton.edu)

SUNY Canton EH&S Dept. Website: <https://www.canton.edu/ehs/>