|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Justin Daniels  President  Alan Sactor  Vice President  Jody Nolan  Treasurer  Michael Swain  Past President  Robert Ferrara Director  Douglas Gazzale Director  William Hempstead  Director  Maria Marks Director  James Rainer  Director  Dr. Rodger Reiswig Director  Richard Roberts Director  Nathaniel Smith Director  Seth Statler Director | **PRESS RELEASE  NFPA and CCFS Offer Resources to Better Educate Students about Fire Risks in College Housing during Campus Fire Safety Month in September**  *Cooking and Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Among Top Fire Concerns*  *August 20, 2024* -- As the new school year approaches, college students nationwide are preparing to move into campus dormitories and off-campus housing. The [National Fire Protection Association®](https://www.nfpa.org/en) (NFPA®) and [The Center for Campus Fire Safety™](https://www.myccfs.org/)(CCFS) collaborate on the annual Campus Fire Safety Month campaign every September to ensure students, parents, and campus housing staff and administrators have the relevant information and resources they need to make resident living spaces as safe as possible from fires and associated hazards.  The latest NFPA statistics, show that U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 3,331 structure fires each year in dormitories, fraternity houses, sorority houses, and barracks between 2018 and 2022. Fires in dormitory-type properties caused an annual average of 21 civilian deaths, 23 civilian injuries, and $21 million in direct property damage during that period. Approximately three out of four fires in these properties began in the kitchen or cooking area, accounting for 58 percent of the civilian injuries and 11 percent of the direct property damage. Cooking equipment was involved in nearly eight out of 10 fires.  “As students return to campus this fall, many of them will be preparing their own meals. Some will be using kitchen appliances for the first time or cooking food after studying or coming home late from a party,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA and CCFS Advisory Council member. “The data tells us that more education is needed about when and where cooking hazards exist, along with ways to prevent them. Campus Fire Safety Month is a great way to raise public awareness of fire safety on our college campuses.”  CCFS has been collecting statistics since January 2000. They include student deaths On or Off Campus and in Greek Housing, and all within a three-mile radius of their college or university. According to Justin Daniels, CCFS president, “sadly, 134 student lives were lost with 114 of these in off-campus housing. That’s why CCFS and NFPA work together each year. We developed the [Student “Share” program](https://www.myccfs.org/share) with safety tips and videos that both educators and students can use at no cost. These resources should help us to help us reach Off-Campus areas as well.”  NFPA and CCFS offer a wealth of [tips and resources](https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/cooking) for cooking safely in resident housing, including these key messages:   * If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don’t use the stove or stovetop. * Stay in the kitchen while preparing meals; use a timer to remind you that you’re cooking. * Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.   Further, while cooking remains a leading cause of fires in campus housing, there is growing concern on college campuses about the increasing number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries.  Alan Sactor, vice president of the Center for Campus Fire Safety, said, “Micromobility devices like e-bikes and e-scooters and smaller electronics such as cell phones, laptops, and tablets are vital to the daily life of college students. However, the mishandling or misuse of these batteries can lead to safety hazards such as overheating, fire, or even explosions. NFPA and the CCFS are working together to help educate students on how to use, store, and charge these devices safely to reduce the risk of fire.”  NFPA and CCFS provide several resources and [tips for safely buying, charging, storing, and using lithium-ion batteries](https://www.nfpa.org/Education%20and%20Research/Home%20Fire%20Safety/Lithium-Ion%20Batteries) to help prevent fires:   * Use only charging equipment that is supplied with your device. * Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged. * Stop using your device if the battery shows signs of damage, such as an unusual odor, excessive heat, popping sounds, swelling, or change in color.   In 2023, CCFS launched the Micromobility/Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Reporting Program for fire safety professionals. The program aims to support the development of educational programs, policies, and advocacy efforts to help reduce the risk of these battery fires on college campuses. Learn more and [submit a fire incident on the CCFS website](https://www.myccfs.org/li-fire-reporting-program).  For this information and more about the Campus Fire Safety Month campaign and to find free resources and safety tips, visit [nfpa.org/campussafety](https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/building-and-life-safety/campus-and-dorm-fires) and the [CCFS webpage](https://www.myccfs.org/share).  For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the NFPA [press room](https://www.nfpa.org/About-NFPA/Press-Room).  For information about CCFS or any materials, please contact [SupportTeam@campusfiresafety.org](mailto:SupportTeam@campusfiresafety.org) or call 978.961.0410  **About The Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS)**  CCFS is the voice of over 4,000 campus fire and life safety officials. With its roots in the first Forum on Campus Fire Safety in 1999, at NFPA Headquarters in Quincy, Massachusetts, CCFS has advocated for fire safety at the nation's institutions of higher education for over 22 years, incorporating as a non-profit in 2005. CCFS is a membership-based organization devoted to reducing the loss of life from fire at colleges and universities, both on and off-campus. CCFS members and followers reach throughout North America with growing international membership. Visit us at: [http://www.myccfs.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.myccfs.org&d=DwQFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=Z5MHxg0lnaXJ6fk9ROZASzSyJpSIIZT_hPYxlukncG0&m=uR4yPrGIPOFUPoyKA8Uy8HLuqR80rojyJAp2qduRNzI&s=lkDtI3PzPTAvavnDlA42cgoftahs4dFHpcLaaz9iDmU&e=)  **About the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)**  Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org/). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess). |