**Annual Fire Safety Report for Student Housing (Updated Fall 2020)**

Each year, Berea College publishes a Fire Safety Report and a Campus Security Report to the community in compliance with the Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended in 2009, and with Kentucky’s Minger Act. The required policy information and statistics for both crime and residence hall fire related issues are available in the form of a printable brochure on the Berea College Public Safety web page. The fire safety report outlines fire safety practices, standards, training measures and all required residence hall fire statistics. The report provides information on the fire suppression and notification systems and policies related to portable electrical appliances, smoking and open flames in student housing facilities. Individual residence hall data is presented in the matrix titled Residence Hall Fire Safety.

The fire alarm systems of 15 residence halls are monitored 24 hours a day by contract with an off-site alarm-monitoring firm, which notifies Berea Fire Department and Berea College Public Safety of alarm activations. Kettering Residence Hall will be back online, Fall Semester of 2021. This residence hall was offline since Spring of 2020, but housed students during the 2019-2020 school year. Automatic fire suppression sprinkler systems and electrically wired smoke detectors with battery backups are located in individual living units and in the public areas of each of these 15 halls. The remaining locations, Home Management House, SENS House, and the Eco-Village locations are on local fire alarm systems only, and do not call out alarms to a central monitoring location. These residences do, however, have both wired in smoke detectors and battery backups for these detectors. Three houses on Hillside Drive were not utilized as residence halls during the fall term or 2019, and will not be used during the spring term of 2020, due to a lower number of students in residence halls due to COVID-19. It is anticipated that these houses will again be used in Fall of 2021.

Fire extinguishers are located in prominent and public locations in all residence halls. Environmental Health and Safety coordinates monthly scheduled checking and reporting by trained hall staff on the status of residence hall fire extinguishers, emergency lights and fire egress systems.

Twenty-eight of the fifty apartments in the Ecovillage, designed for families and single parents, have automatic sprinkler systems. All apartments have fire extinguishers and two or more smoke detectors. Fire extinguishers are checked quarterly in each apartment and the Commons House.

**Evacuation Procedures**

Students must evacuate during a fire alarm and proceed to a designated assembly point until notified that it is safe to return to the building and rooms. Building evacuation routes are posted on the back of the door of each room and in the public areas. It is the responsibility of every member of the residence hall community and their guests to know how to safely evacuate the residence hall. This includes being familiar with evacuation routes and the locations of exits, stairwells, phones, and elevators. Students who fail to evacuate during a fire alarm may be subject to disciplinary action.

Persons with disabilities who may need assistance should inform College personnel, including the Disabilities Coordinator and the Department of Public Safety, of the nature of the disability and type of assistance that may be needed. Residential students also must inform their Hall Coordinator and Student Life Area Coordinator of the accommodations needed. Students also should notify labor supervisors and instructors because evacuation may be required from the workplace, classroom, or laboratory. Individuals who must stay in place until emergency personnel arrive should be sure to inform another person of their specific location so they can inform the emergency responders. They also can call Public Safety and 911.

**Fire Prevention**

It is the policy of Berea College to provide students, faculty, staff, and visitors with the safest possible environment, free from known fire hazards. The goal of the college is to recognize hazardous conditions and take appropriate action before such conditions result in a fire. This goal is accomplished by conducting periodic safety inspections of fire systems, residence hall facilities, keeping facilities in compliance with all applicable state and federal fire codes, and increasing the fire safety awareness of residents by conducting fire drills. The State Fire Marshal’s Office, Public Safety, Facilities Management, Environmental Health and Safety, and Residence Life conduct periodic inspections. All Student Residence Life Staff are provided fire extinguisher training at the beginning of each academic year. Supervised fire exit drills are conducted in residence halls at least two times a year and, in most cases, two times a semester. The Berea Fire Department is also involved with fire drills in the residence halls.

**Residence Hall Fire Safety Regulations**

To minimize the potential for fires, Berea College is a smoke and tobacco free Campus. Any open flames, candles, incense, electrical wax pots, potpourri pots, candle burners and electric plates are prohibited. Candles and explosives are not permitted in the residence halls. Appliances in rooms must be in good working order and have the Underwriters’ Laboratories seal of approval. Appliances that are not permitted include popcorn poppers, coffeepots, teapots, electric frying pans, microwaves, deep fryers, grills, halogen lamps, etc. Extension cords must be in good working order and have the U.L. seal of approval. Cords must not be spliced or changed in any way. Extension cords should not be used under rugs or furniture or behind/around hot water/heating pipes. Surge protectors or circuit breakers must be used any time an extension cord is used. Curling irons, etc., are to be used in the bathroom and are not to be left plugged in even if they are turned off. Appliances with three-prong plugs may not be altered to fit a receptacle that does not provide for a ground plug. U.L. adapters may be used. Irons are to be used only in laundry rooms or other designated areas within the residence halls.

**Plans for Improving Fire Safety**

In the 2019-2020 academic year, as part of the Berea College Safety Week, fire drills were initiated in all buildings on campus, including Academic and Administrative buildings. This ensured that almost all students were involved in at least one or, for most, multiple fire drills on campus during that week. This is an annual event to increase knowledge of students’ responsibilities during fire alarms. The College has a good working relationship with the Berea City Fire Department and two evacuation drills will be planned per semester with them for residence halls. Pre-planning is done in conjunction with the Fire Department for academic and residential buildings. Walk-through tours of the freshly constructed Kettering Residence Hall will be conducted with Berea College Fire Safety personnel and members of the Berea Fire Department to aid in pre-planning for incidents occurring there.

**Reporting**  
All students and employees must immediately report fires to the Public Safety Office (ext. 3333 from a campus phone) or 9-1-1. All students and employees must report all potential fire hazards to Public Safety, Facilities Management, or Residence Life. Persons aware of evidence suggesting a previously unreported residence hall fire of any magnitude should report the incident to Public Safety. Knowledge of all fire situations is an important aid to investigation and follow up aimed at prevention of similar future incidents and to alerting others in the halls to potential dangers. A daily fire log is maintained and updated on the Public Safety webpage. A copy of the log is also posted on an electronic bulletin board

outside the Public Safety main office.

**Statistical Reporting of Fire Incidents in Individual Residence Halls**

For the 2019 Calendar year, one fire in an Eco-Village apartment stove was reported. There was no permanent damage, no injuries, and no deaths that occurred during this reported fire. The fire department responded and assessed the scene, but no further action was required.

**Helpful Numbers**

Public Safety Office (859)985-3333

Emergency Dispatch 9-1-1

Facilities Management (859) 985-3827

Residence Life Collegium (859) 985-3115

A table is included, which provides detailed descriptions of the fire protection and notification systems in each individual residence hall.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Residence Hall | Fire Alarm Monitoring | Partial Sprinkler System | Full Sprinkler System | Fire Extinguisher Devices | Evac Plans | Evac Drills Per Year | Horns | Strobe Lights | Fire Doors |
| Anna Smith | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Bingham | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Blue Ridge | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Dana | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Danforth Hall | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Deep Green | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Edwards | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | No |
| Elizabeth Rogers | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Fairchild Hall | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Home Management | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | No |
| James | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Kentucky | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Kettering (Offline Spring 2019) | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Pearsons | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Seabury | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| SENS House | No |  | No | Yes | Yes | 1 | No | No | No |
| Talcott | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Eco Village | No | Yes\* |  | Yes | Yes | 1 | No | No | No |
| Hillside Drive Houses | No | No | No | Yes | Yes | 4 | Yes | No | No |
| Creekside Inn | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | 1 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | \*28 of 50 Apartments have partial sprinkler systems | | | | |  |  |  |  |