

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH**

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# 2021 ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORT



FIRE STATISTICS FOR 2018-2020

*Issued September 2021*

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## Description of Residence Hall Fire/Life Safety Systems

On-campus (reasonably contiguous) student housing encompasses the following residential complexes; 1) Hillside College located at the northeast corner of Beach Drive and Earl Warren Drive, providing housing for about 1040 student residents [includes Los Alamitos Hall, Los Cerritos Hall & International House]; 2) Parkside College located on the west side of Earl Warren Drive, south of Atherton Street, providing housing for about 1000 student residents; 3) Beachside College located on Pacific Coast Highway, north of Clark Avenue, providing housing for about 700 student residents.

Building codes mandate that these complexes are equipped with a fire sprinkler system, pull alarms, smoke and heat detectors. Designers of each complex installed numerous heat and smoke detectors and sprinklers in each residential dwelling. All fire safety alarms/activations within CSULB housing are monitored by the CSULBPD Communications Center. In the case of an actual fire, fire-fighting responsibilities are delegated to the Long Beach Fire Department.

A fire inspection of each on-campus living space is conducted monthly by Housing and Residence Life staff to ensure that residents are in compliance with published on-campus residential fire safety rules and regulations. Twice each year, all detection and prevention equipment such as smoke detectors, heat detectors, pull stations, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting and backflow preventers are professionally inspected and tested to ensure that each is serviceable and fully operable by a locally operated and properly licensed vendor. Finally, periodically, the State of California Fire Marshal reviews all fire inspection data along with a physical inspection of campus buildings with a particular emphasis of our campus residential housing areas.

Fire Safety Systems in Residential Facilities							
Facility	Fire Alarm Monitoring (by UPD)	Partial Sprinkler	Full Sprinkler	Smoke Detection	Fire Extinguisher Devices	Evacuation Plans & Placards	Number of Evacuation (Fire) Drills Each Calendar Year
Beachside	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	2
Hillside	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	2
<i>Los Alamitos</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Los Cerritos</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	
<i>International House</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Parkside	✓			✓	✓	✓	2

\*Full sprinkler system is defined as having sprinklers in both individual rooms and common areas

## Fire Drills

Housing and Residence Life conducts mandatory fire evacuation drills each calendar year. Fire evacuation drills are supervised by Student Housing staff and (as necessary) monitored by personnel from Emergency Management and/or CSULBPD. The Long Beach Fire Department will always be notified before any Fire Drill exercise. Housing and Residence Life staff members are also responsible for conducting periodic fire safety instruction sessions with residents during the academic year. For the safety of all student residents, all building evacuations shall be considered genuine emergencies and residents will be instructed to take all necessary precautions and to follow all evacuation instructions from Housing and Residence Life staff, CSULBPD Officers or Long Beach Fire Department personnel.

# Policies or Rules on Portable Electrical Appliances, Smoking and Open Flames in Student Housing Facilities

Fire safety regulations at CSULB are designed and intended to prevent death, injuries and/or damage to university property and its facilities. Housing and Residence Life maintains, publishes, and distributes relevant fire safety policies to residents.

## CSULB Housing & Residential Life Fire Safety Policy:

### **Fire and Life Safety**

All students share responsibility for the health and safety conditions of their hall. To keep halls safe, students must keep the following policies in mind:

### **Appliances**

To meet fire, health and safety requirements, the University must discourage the proliferation of electrical appliances in student rooms.

- All appliances with open heating coils are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: hot plates, hot oil fryers, rice cookers, popcorn makers, personal space heaters, sun lamps, “George Foreman” style electric grills, toasters, toaster ovens, crock pots, air poppers, or other appliances with open heating coils.
- Where micro-fridges are provided, no resident may bring an additional microwave or refrigerator of any size. Special permission to bring an additional mini-fridge for medical purposes must be requested and approved in advance.
- High-wattage appliances are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: broilers, rotisseries, ceiling fans, skillets, dimmer switches, tabletop grills, bread makers, ceiling fans, window or portable air conditioners, or halogen lamps (such as lava lamps).
- Black lights are prohibited in University fixtures.
- Extension Cords are prohibited. Non-breaker, multi-outlet devices such as adapters, cubes, etc. are prohibited.
  - UL Approved power strips may not be “daisy chained” (two or more connected cords/strips).
  - There may be one power strip maximum per outlet.
  - Only UL Approved, 15 amp, surge-protected power strips with built-in fuses may be used to extend appliance cords to electrical outlets, or to plug in multiple devices to one outlet.
  - Electrical cords must not be routed unsafely (under carpets, in pathways, through doorways, taped down, etc.). Spliced, taped or frayed cords must not be used. Electrical wiring which is homemade or otherwise modified is prohibited.

The following appliances are permitted: fully enclosed coffee makers with internal heating devices, electric kettles with a UL certificate, and blenders with an automatic shutoff. Only compact fluorescent bulbs may be used in residence hall lighting fixtures.

### **Candles and Open-flames**

Open flames for any reason are prohibited in the residence halls. Candles and incense are prohibited in the residence halls, whether lit or unlit. Warmers for wax, oils, or candles are prohibited. Candles and incense for religious practices and birthday parties must be approved in advance by an Area Coordinator or Assistant Director of Residential Life.

### **Construction**

Students may not construct partitions, modify furniture, subdivide their rooms, construct additions that increase fire loads, or install or modify electrical wiring. Only bunk beds provided by the University are permissible. Any modification or lofting of a resident’s bed that is not designed to be raised is strictly prohibited (e.g. residents are prohibited from raising beds with cinder masonry blocks, chain link fence poles, lumber of any sort, etc.). Platforms or structures at any level constituting additional floor surfaces are prohibited. Each of these modifications increases

the risk of fire or personal injury accidents. Residents may not attach locks, latches, slide bolts, hooks and eyes, chains, or similar devices (for interior or exterior doors) beyond what is provided by University Housing. Closing the partition in the Beachside Multi-purpose Room requires a residential life staff member; residents are not permitted to move the partition.

### **Decorations**

- All decorations are limited to the room area; the suite and hallway are not to be decorated.
- All decorations must be noncombustible or factory-treated with flame retardant. The following are prohibited as interior finish to any residence hall room: wallpaper, combustible fabrics such as tapestries, burlap, paper, cork, plywood paneling, plywood sheets, decorative wood shingles, particleboard, hardboard, paperboards, and any other flame and smoke propagating materials.
- Carpeting is not permitted on the walls or ceilings. Ceilings shall not be draped with any fabric, netting, or paper products.
- No decorations can be put on the floors that may be a trip hazard in an emergency or otherwise.
- Electrical cords cannot run through doorways, windows, or fire doors. Twinkle lights are permitted in the rooms only, not in the suite area.
- Nothing may impede or hinder occupants' access to exits, including obstructing the view of an exit sign or exit doorway.
- Only artificial, flame retardant wreaths and trees may be used in residence halls. Natural evergreen branches or trees are not permitted inside residence halls.
- Students are prohibited from displaying banners, flags or other window decorations visible from the outside of the building. This includes drawing, painting, or writing on windows except as expressly permitted.
- Residents may decorate their rooms (within this and other policy guidelines); however, decoration and posting in the residence halls is only permitted by residential life staff, except when permitted. This includes the suite walls.
- Residence hall room and suite doors may be decorated (not knobs, just the door surface), but the decorations must not cover more than an 8.5" x 11" area.

### **Failure to Evacuate**

Students must evacuate in a timely manner when a fire alarm sounds. This includes during evacuation drills, which are held semesterly. It is a resident's responsibility to familiarize him or herself with evacuation routes and protocols. Emergency procedure protocols are posted in each resident's room

### **Fire Doors, Escapes, and Exits**

All means of egress and components must be properly maintained at all times, in accordance with the requirements of the State Building and Fire Prevention Regulations. Means of egress shall include but are not limited to, corridors, doorways, fire escapes, stairwells and exterior sidewalks that lead to parking lots or streets. For this reason, storage is not permitted in corridors or stairwells. No bed structure or other furniture can block the use of the connecting room doors. A clear passage or direct access to the center room for exiting is required. All corridors in every room (including suites) shall be maintained for easy exit.

### **Fireworks, Explosives, Chemicals**

No fireworks or explosives of any type are permitted in the residence halls. Storing or discharging firecrackers, rockets, cherry bombs, or any other incendiary device in or around the residence hall complex is prohibited. Chemicals, other than over-the counter cleaning agents and similar types of retail items, are likewise prohibited. This includes any fuels or similar type of combustibles. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Lighter fluid
- Spray paints

- Charcoal or hookah coals
- Laboratory chemicals
- Gun powder
- Grills
- Gasoline, kerosene, or propane, or any other type of liquid gas tanks
- Any substances that can be combined to form combustible and/or chemical agents. In addition, residents must keep their rooms clear of clutter that poses a fire danger such as large quantities of paper, rags, or trash.

### **Tampering with Fire Alarms and Emergency Systems**

Residents are strictly prohibited from tampering with any equipment related to emergency systems and the fire alarm system (pull stations, extinguishers, hoses, smoke detectors, sprinklers, emergency exit door alarms, exit signs). Tampering with, removal of, covering, or misuse of fire extinguishers, fire alarms, smoke detectors (including the removal of batteries), emergency evacuation instructions, or unauthorized use of any fire equipment, or door, is a violation of Penal Code 148.4, University, and Housing regulations. Sprinklers associated with residence hall fire safety systems may not be tampered with, including hanging decorations or other objects from them, or within 18” of a sprinkler head. If a sprinkler is set off accidentally or intentionally, the individual(s) involved will be responsible for all costs associated with clean up and damage and will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Fire Alarms and Drills**

Every room has full smoke detection with at least one smoke detector in each room where required. When activated, these devices will sound an alarm locally. All smoke detector alarms will report to the University Police Department.

All residents are required to evacuate a building during a fire alarm. If a fire alarm sounds, doors to rooms should be closed and students should proceed to the closest exit. If smoke hampers a means of egress, persons should seek an alternative route. Fire drills will be conducted during the academic year. Building occupants should not use elevators to evacuate the building. The stairs should be used to evacuate safely.

When outside the building, every resident should proceed to a pre-designated assembly area, at least 50 feet away from the building. (Assembly points are listed at the California State University Long Beach Emergency Preparedness website.) Residents should not stand in front of or near the entrances to the building, obstructing firefighters’ access to the building. Residents must not re-enter the building until the fire alarm has been silenced and University Police Department has indicated that it is safe to reoccupy.

If you think you might need specialized assistance in recognizing an alarm (i.e. a visual alarm device) or help during an evacuation (i.e. specialized evacuation equipment or alternative egress route planning) due to a medical condition or disability, you may contact your Residential Coordinator to arrange for an evaluation. Self-identification is voluntary. All such requests and any special arrangements made will only be disclosed to Public Safety and individuals who have a responsibility to assist under the plan.

### **Health and Safety**

All students share responsibility for the health and safety conditions of their hall. To keep halls safe, students must keep the following facts in mind:

- Know the fire exit routes from the residence hall.
- Corridors and stairwells in residence halls have the following life safety equipment: emergency lighting, exit signs, fire extinguishers, fire alarms and smoke detectors.

- Burned-out light bulbs in corridors will be replaced by Maintenance Technicians. Students should not replace any light bulb, as oversized bulbs can overload the circuits and create a fire hazard.
- Combustible materials should not be placed against or left in contact with radiators, heating units, light bulbs or lighting fixtures, or any other electrical items.
- Lamps should never be placed near curtains, bedding, posters or pictures.
- Bed structures may not render windows unusable for emergency access or for air circulation. Bed structures may not block access to heating or ventilating units, plumbing, lighting fixtures, and thermostats.
- Fire safety equipment may not be tampered or interfered with for any reason. Automatic sprinkler heads must be kept clear of all obstruction.

## Procedures for Student Housing Evacuations

Residents are encouraged to read and follow all policies, rules and regulations regarding fire alarms, evacuations, assembly locations and the accounting of roommates and neighbors. Resident Advisors will check to see that everyone has evacuated to the evacuation areas. You are required by law to evacuate the building when the alarm sounds. Do not attempt to reenter the building until you are instructed to do so by the proper authority.

*Potential Safe Staging Areas* (Subject to consideration of current conditions at time of evacuation)

The following locations in the housing complexes have been designated as potential safe staging areas for housing evacuations dependent upon actual occurrences. Emergency personnel may designate other specific areas as needed. Housing and Residence Life Office Lawn Area – The Parking Lot G7 is the potential safe staging area designated for Parkside Commons Halls: G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, Parkside Dining hall, Parkside office, and Main Housing offices’ residents, guests and staff.

*Los Alamitos Lawn Area* – The lawn area north of Los Alamitos hall is the potential safe staging area designated for Los Alamitos hall, Residential dining hall, D, E, and F Building residents, and Main Housing offices’ residents, guests and staff.

*Los Cerritos Lawn Area* – The lawn area south of Los Cerritos hall is the potential safe staging area designated for Los Cerritos hall, A, B, and C Buildings’ residents, guests and staff.

*International House (IH)* – Lot 1 to the east of the IH hall is the potential safe staging area designated for residents, guests and staff.

*Beachside College* – The park area towards PCH is the potential safe staging area for the Beachside dining hall, Pacific hall, and Beach hall residents, guests and staff.

Graphical reference- [http://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/u25711/evacuation\\_assembly\\_map.pdf](http://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/u25711/evacuation_assembly_map.pdf)

Assuming that an emergency evacuation is one that does not require evacuating from campus or onsite housing complex, emergency personnel will remain at their posts until the “all clear” signal has been given by the Hall Coordinator or CSULBPD.

## Policies for Fire Education and Training

CSULB maintains a comprehensive fire safety program that involves regular inspections, drills and compliance enforcement with established state law, campus policies and on-campus housing fire safety rules and regulations. Employees of Housing & Residence Life undergo annual training involving hands-on use of fire extinguishers and locations where they are placed. They are also trained on proper evacuation routes & procedures. They are educated on identifying different classes of fires and what methods work best to extinguish them.

Residents are provided with information and education regarding fire safety in writing and in hall meetings with their Resident Advisors, including preparedness tips, rules and regulations regarding fire safety, and evacuation plans. Residents also participate in two fire evacuation drills each calendar year.

## Reporting Incidents of Fire

Any member of the student housing community who observes a fire should activate a fire alarm and evacuate to a safe location. All instances of fire must be immediately reported to CSULBPD, even those that have been extinguished.

1. Dial (562) 985-4101
2. Dial 9-1-1 from any campus telephone to report a fire emergency
3. Dial 9-1-1 from a cellular telephone to report a fire emergency
4. Use any one of the more than 90 building emergency telephones to report a fire emergency 6. Use the emergency intercom system found in most building elevators to report a fire emergency
7. Use any one of the 95 Blue Light Emergency call-boxes and/or poles strategically located around campus, the parking lots and the parking structures to report a fire emergency
8. Off-campus calls for emergency assistance should be directed to the appropriate local law enforcement agency
9. Pull a fire alarm

### Be ready to provide:

- Your name, telephone number and location
- Calmly describe the fire emergency
- Do not hang-up, allow the dispatchers to end the call

### The following is a list of positions that should be notified AFTER a fire has occurred:

1. Chief of Police
2. Office of the President
3. Executive Director of Housing & Residence Life
4. Risk Manager
5. Environmental Health & Safety Director
6. Physical Planning & Facilities Management Associate Vice President

## Description of Future Fire/Life Safety Improvements

With an enhanced focus on the student residential areas, the CSULB general fire safety plan is never ending, always evolving in order to improve and enhance our existing fire safety systems and methods of safely evacuating campus buildings. The student residential area is scheduled for hardware and software upgrades to the fire safety systems in the very near future. Housing and Residence Life is preparing an improvement plan for fire and emergency safety and response to be implemented in the upcoming years.

Some of these improvements include:

- Comprehensive information throughout the school year for prevention of false fire alarms.
- Proper appliances to be used in the dorms.
- Maintaining safe egress routes at all times.
- RA random room checks.

## Student Housing Fire Statistics 2018 through 2020

For the purposes of fire safety reporting, HEA defines a fire as *any instance of open flame or other burning in a place not intended to contain the burning or in an uncontrolled manner.*

The annual fire safety statistics reported below contain Housing and Residence Life statistics compiled from the 2020 calendar year and from the two previous calendar years.

### Statistics and Related Information Regarding Fires in Residential Facilities

2018 Calendar Year						
Residential Facilities	Number of Fires	Fire #	Cause of Fire	Injuries Caused	Deaths Caused	Value of Property Damage
<b>Beachside</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Hillside</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Los Alamitos</i>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Los Cerritos</i>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>International House</i>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Parkside</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2019 Calendar Year						
Residential Facilities	Number of Fires	Fire #	Cause of Fire	Injuries Caused	Deaths Caused	Value of Property Damage
<b>Beachside</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Hillside</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Los Alamitos</i>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Los Cerritos</i>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>International House</i>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Parkside</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2020 Calendar Year						
Residential Facilities	Number of Fires	Fire #	Cause of Fire	Injuries Caused	Deaths Caused	Value of Property Damage
<b>Beachside</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Hillside</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Los Alamitos</i>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Los Cerritos</i>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>International House</i>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Parkside</b>	1	1	Unintentional	0	0	\$220

## The Current Annual Security Report

The 2021 Annual Security Report is available at: [www.csulb.edu/CleryASR](http://www.csulb.edu/CleryASR)