FIRE AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT POLICY

Policy Statement

Students are expected to follow rules for all fire and safety equipment.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

This policy is required for the effective communication of university policy regarding fire and safety equipment.

Who Needs to Know This Policy

All students of The University of Southern Mississippi community living on campus.

Website Address for this Policy

www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-stua-res-026

Definitions

Policy/Procedures

The city fire code prohibits anyone from tampering with fire and safety equipment in the residence halls or in any campus building. Tampering includes pulling fire alarms, discharging fire extinguishers, removing exit signs, hanging items from sprinkler heads and interfering with smoke detectors. Never hang or affix any item to sprinkler heads or smoke detectors. Interference with the operation of a smoke detector is prohibited. Students found responsible will be responsible for damages. All violators are subject to disciplinary action and possible criminal
prosecution. The civil penalty for malicious use of fire and safety equipment is a $500 fine and/or 90 days in jail.

**Air Conditioners/Space Heaters** – Individual air conditioners and/or heaters are not permitted in the residence halls at any time. Due to fire hazards, items present of this type will be confiscated if they are found in the halls. Although all the halls are air-conditioned, residents may wish to bring small fans for use in their rooms.

**Combustible Materials** – Due to the threat of fire, combustible decorative materials, such as dry vegetation, natural Christmas trees, excessive trash and similar materials are not permitted in the residence halls. The storing of flammable liquids or materials of any kind or classification is prohibited.

**Cooking and Appliances** – Due to the nature of residence hall living, the physical facilities of the halls, and the concerns for fire and safety standards, only microwave cooking is permitted in student rooms. Micro-fridges (microwave, refrigerator/freezer combination) are provided in every room by the Department of Residence Life. Cooking appliances (such as toasters and hot plates) are not allowed in student rooms. George Foreman grills or similar products also are not permitted. Single-cup coffee makers with automatic shut-off functions are permitted in rooms.

*Microwaves should be used in accordance with general usage practices. At no time should metal of any type be placed in a microwave.*

**Electrical Requirements** – Only heavy-duty, single-receptacle extension cords should be used in residence hall rooms. Due to threat of fire, extension cords should never be placed under carpets. Outlet multiplier cubes and household extension cords are prohibited. A power strip with a built-in circuit breaker should be used if more receptacles are needed. All appliances must be UL approved.

**Halogen Lamps** – Due to high operating temperatures that could result in threat of a fire, halogen lamps are prohibited in the residence halls.

**Incense/Candles** – Incense, candles and heated potpourri pots are not permitted in the residence halls. Burning substances in any form creates a fire hazard. This includes the use of candle warmers.

---

**Review**

The Director of Student Housing Administration is responsible for the review of this policy every four years (or whenever circumstances require immediate review).

---

**Forms/Instructions**

N/A

---

**Appendices**
N/A

**Related Information**

N/A

**History**

03/15/13: Formatted for template. Minor editing throughout.
**Amendments:** Month, Day, Year – summary of changes
Authorization

FIRE AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT POLICY
STUA-RES-026

As the Responsible Officer, I have reviewed this policy and believe it represents the current policy.

Edward_godbold, Director

Responsible Officer

March 22, 2013

Date