Fire Safe College Housing — What You Need to Look For!

Here are some good questions for college students and parents to ask before moving into a dormitory or signing an apartment lease.

- Are there working smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside of sleeping areas, and on each level of the building?
- Are there at least two ways out of each room and the building?
- Do the upper levels of the building have at least two sets of stairs inside and/or a fire escape?
- Are there exit signs in the hallways to show the way out?
- Are there enough electrical outlets for all appliances, computers, printers and electronics — without using an extension cord?
- Has the building’s heating system been inspected recently (in the last year)?
- Does the building have a sprinkler system?
- Does the building have a fire alarm system?
- Does the sprinkler system or fire alarm system send a signal to the local fire department and/or campus security?
- Is the building address clearly posted so emergency services can find it quickly if they need to?