**Virginia Tech**

**Higher Education Opportunity Act**

**Blacksburg Campus Fire Safety Annual Compliance Report for 2009**

**Overview**

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) became law in August, 2008, requiring all United States academic institutions to produce an annual fire safety report outlining fire safety practices, standards, and all fire-related on-campus statistics related to student housing. The following public disclosure report details all information required by this law as it relates to Virginia Tech as outlined in the initial regulation; subsequent yearly reports will comply with the Act as amended and published October 29, 2009.

**On-Campus Housing Fire Safety Equipment**

At Virginia Tech, all forty-six of our residence halls are protected by [fire detection and alarm systems](http://www.studentprograms.vt.edu/firesafety/firesafety.php#singlestation) which are centrally monitored 24 hours/day, seven days/week. The buildings are also equipped with either emergency generators or lighting fixtures that incorporate backup batteries; upon loss of power, these systems automatically activate to assure adequate egress lighting in hallways and emergency exit stairwells. [Twenty-eight](http://www.studentprograms.vt.edu/firesafety/firesafety.php) of our residence halls are fully sprinklered, including all high-rise residence halls. Carbon monoxide detectors have been installed in all residence hall mechanical rooms where products of combustion could occur. All fire safety systems and equipment are strictly maintained and tested in accordance with applicable national standards. A summary of the fire protection systems present in each residence hall is provided in Table 1.

**Fire Safety Education, Training and Fire Drills**

All on-campus residents (including those with special needs) receive intensive and comprehensive fire safety training at the beginning of each semester. Training on fire and life safety is also provided to all Residential Advisors, Area Coordinators, Building Managers, Fraternity & Sorority House Managers, University Unions and Student Activities Event Staff & Crowd Managers, Housekeeping staff and Hot-work Coordinators. In addition, a quality control program that covers emergency and evacuation procedures is reviewed regularly with the occupants and staff of each respective residence hall. Each resident is required to review and comply with the requirements outlined in the [*Hokie Handbook*](http://www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu/) and [*Room & Board and So Much More*](http://www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu/documents/RoomBoard.pdf), which includes information on fire safety and what appropriate action to take during a fire alarm or fire emergency. Student Programs also maintains extensive information on fire safety on its [website](http://www.studentprograms.vt.edu/firesafety/). There is an emergency evacuation map posted on each floor to direct occupants to primary and secondary exits.

Fire drills are conducted quarterly in all of the occupied residence halls every year in coordination with Virginia Tech’s offices of Environmental, Health and Safety Services and Student Programs. Fraternity and sorority houses that are located on university property must follow the same procedures that apply to residence halls.

**Specific Fire Prevention Related Policies and Programs**

* Policy 1005, [Health and Safety](http://www.policies.vt.edu/1005.pdf), affirms that faculty, staff and students must comply with university health and safety policies and programs, attend required training, report any identified safety or health hazard, and know their roles in an emergency.
* Policy 1010, [Policy on Smoking](http://www.policies.vt.edu/1010.pdf), prohibits smoking in all university properties owned and operated by Virginia Tech, including residence halls.
* Policy 5000, [University Facilities Usage and Event Approval](http://www.policies.vt.edu/5000.pdf), requires that an application must be submitted for certain types of events on campus, and affirms that these events are subject to a review and approval process. The use of open flames and pyrotechnics, layout of assembly areas/events, and use of decorations are all evaluated during this review.
* Policy 5406, [Requirements for Temporary Facilities/Tents/Stages](http://www.policies.vt.edu/5406.pdf), assures that tents, stages and other temporary facilities comply the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, including the prohibition on the use of open flames near or under any tent.
* Policy 5605, [Residence Hall Fire and Fire Alarm Procedures](http://www.policies.vt.edu/5605.pdf), affirms that students must evacuate the building upon fire alarm activation and outlines the role of staff members in overseeing evacuation procedures and reentry into the building when authorized.
* Policy 5615, [University Safety and Security](http://www.policies.vt.edu/5615.pdf), requires that Resident Advisors be trained to perform safety audits of residence rooms, coordinate emergency evacuations and warning procedures, and facilitate the performance of fire and other drills.
* The [*Hokie Handbook*](http://www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu/)and [*Room & Board and So Much More*](http://www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu/documents/RoomBoard.pdf)*,* which are part of the housing contract, limit the types of electrical appliances allowed in residence halls, establish expectations for compliance with drills and training, provide for periodic health and safety inspections of residence rooms, affirm limitations on materials that may be stored in resident rooms, prohibit open flames without a permit, limit the use of combustible decorations/furnishings, and define the consequences if students violate university polices and programs. Specifically:
* Electrical appliances such as electric stoves, George Foreman-type grills, toaster ovens, toasters, crock pots, sandwich makers, air conditioners, space heaters, hot plates, and other open coiled appliances are not permitted in residence hall rooms. No extension cords of any type are permitted, and halogen bulb lamps and high intensity lamps are prohibited.
* Room furnishings/decorations and the decorating of public spaces is strictly controlled. Additional limitations on the use of flammable and combustible materials for decorations in both residence rooms and common areas are affirmed in the [Policy for Residence Hall Decorations](http://www.studentprograms.vt.edu/publications/policies.php).
* Items that require an open flame, operate on fuel, or produce heat (such as Bunsen burners, lit candles, incense, and alcohol burners) are prohibited.
* Student rooms, common areas, storage, and mechanical areas are subject to regular inspection by the Virginia State Fire Marshal’s office, Environmental Health and Safety Services personnel, and Student Programs staff. In addition, resident room inspections are conducted once per semester by hall staff in order to identify any health or safety concerns. Violations of fire and life safety policies are subject to university judicial action and appropriate sanctions.
* Anyone found causing a false fire alarm, tampering with fire-safety equipment, or not properly evacuating during a fire alarm will face arrest and/or judicial referral.
* Virginia Tech’s [*Fire and Life Safety Program*](http://www.ehss.vt.edu/programs/fire_and_life_safety.php) establishes requirements for the performance of periodic fire safety inspections of all university buildings, including residence halls; provides for periodic training for employees and students on basic fire safety; affirms conditions that must be maintained in all university properties to comply with the Virginia State Wide Fire Prevention Code; and, establishes requirements for the permitting, approval and inspection of hot work, use of open flames/burning, pyrotechnics and special effects, and temporary facilities, tents and stages.

**Table 1 - Fire Protection Systems in Blacksburg Campus Residential Facilities**

| ***Building Name*** | ***Onsite Fire Alarm Monitoring (VTPD)*** | ***Partial Sprinkler System2*** | ***Full Sprinkler System3*** | ***Smoke Detection*** | ***Fire Extinguishing Devices*** | ***Evacuation Plans & Signs*** | ***Number of Fire Drills each calendar year4*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ambler Johnston Hall (East) | X |  | X | X | X | X | 45 |
| Ambler Johnston Hall (West) | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Barringer Hall | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Brodie Hall | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Campbell Hall (East) | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Campbell Hall (Main) | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Cochrane Hall | X | X |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Eggleston Hall (Main) | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Eggleston Hall (West) | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Harper Hall | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Hillcrest Hall | X |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Johnson Hall | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Lee Hall | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Miles Hall | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Monteith Hall | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| New Hall West | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| New Residence Hall East | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Newman Hall | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| O'shaughnessy Hall | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Payne Hall | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Peddrew-Yates Residence Hall | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Pritchard Hall | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Rasche Hall | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Slusher Tower | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Slusher Wing | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Thomas Hall | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Vawter Hall | X ¹ |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. A | X |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. B | X |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. C | X |  |  | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. D | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. E | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. F | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. G | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. H | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |

**Table 1 - Fire Protection Systems in Blacksburg Campus Residential Facilities (cont.)**

| ***Building Name*** | ***Onsite Fire Alarm Monitoring (VTPD)*** | ***Partial Sprinkler System2*** | ***Full Sprinkler System3*** | ***Smoke Detection*** | ***Fire Extinguishing Devices*** | ***Evacuation Plans & Signs*** | ***Number of Fire Drills each calendar year4*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. I | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. J | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. K | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. L | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. M | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. N | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. O | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. P | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. Q | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. R | X |  | X | X | X | X | 4 |

¹ denotes single stations in residence rooms with smoke and/or heat detection in common areas

2 denotes having sprinklers in the common areas only

3  denotes having sprinklers in both common areas and individual rooms

4  denotes having drills conducted quarterly when the building is occupied

5 East Ambler Johnston is currently under construction; quarterly drills will resume upon re-occupancy

**Fire Statistics**

The number and cause of each fire in each residence hall is summarized in Table 2. There were no reported fire-related injuries or fatalities in residence halls during calendar years 2007 through 2009. There were no fire-related losses reported during calendar years 2007 through 2009.

**Fire Reporting**

The Virginia Tech Police Department monitors the status of all fire detection and fire suppression systems in residence halls. If a fire has occurred, it should be reported to the Communications Center of the Virginia Tech Police Department by calling either 540-231-6411 (non-emergency) or 911 (emergency).

**Plans for Future Improvement**

Virginia Tech maintains a prioritized list of projects to upgrade older fire systems, enhance the capabilities of existing systems, or install new fire safety systems in existing buildings.

**Table 2 - Statistical Report for Fire Response to Residence Halls**

| ***Building Name*** | ***Unintentional Fire*** | | | | | | | | | ***Intentional Fire*** | ***Undetermined Fire*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Cooking*** | ***Smoking Materials*** | ***Open Flames*** | ***Electrical*** | ***Heating Equipment*** | ***Hazardous Products*** | ***Machinery,***  ***Industrial*** | ***Natural*** | ***Other*** |
| Ambler Johnston Hall (East) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ambler Johnston Hall (West) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Barringer Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brodie Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3/18/08, arson; no injuries, no reported fire loss. | 0 |
| Campbell Hall (East) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Campbell Hall (Main) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cochrane Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eggleston Hall (Main) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eggleston Hall (West) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Femoyer Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Johnson Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lee Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11/14/09, arson; no injuries, no reported fire loss. | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11/20/09, arson; no injuries, no reported fire loss. |  |
| Miles Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monteith Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Hall West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newman Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| O'shaughnessy Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Payne Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pritchard Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rasche Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shanks Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slusher Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vawter Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Residence Hall East - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Peddrew-Yates Residence Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harper Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hillcrest Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Residence Hall West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. E | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. H | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. J | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. K | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. L | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. N | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. O | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. P | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. Q | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Purpose Housing - Bldg. R | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |