



Fire Safety Policies

Rights and Responsibilities:

As Boston College students, you have rights regarding personal safety and security. In order to ensure these rights for you and your fellow students, you must abide by certain policies. Fulfilling these policies and requirements is your responsibility as a residence hall student. Minimum mandatory sanctions such as dismissal from housing and/or University, fines, and other conduct and civil action may be imposed for violations. Any prohibited items may be confiscated without compensation to the owner.

- **Health and Safety Inspections:** Random Health and Safety inspections will take place throughout the year. Any safety or policy violation will be recorded.
- **Fire Alarms:** When the fire alarm in your building sounds, it is your responsibility to leave the building immediately. Although some fire alarms are false, you must treat every fire alarm as if a real fire is occurring. Maliciously pulling a fire alarm is a serious offense and could result in serious conduct action. False fire alarms disrupts the life of every resident in the building and places at risk the lives of the responding fire personnel and resident staff. If you witness an alarm being pulled falsely, notify your RA immediately.
- **Fire Extinguishers:** Fire extinguishers are placed in specific locations throughout each residence hall. These extinguishers should be used only in the event of an actual fire. Misuse of a fire extinguisher is a very dangerous act and is considered to be a serious offense that could result in serious conduct action.
- **Door Propping:** The first step toward a safe community is keeping the exterior door properly locked. Propping open a building door leaves the building and its residents vulnerable to all crimes. The card access system for each residence hall door monitors propping. In the event that a door is propped open for more than 60 seconds, a silent alarm sounds to which the Boston College Police Department will respond.
- **Room Combination Security:** Maintaining the safety and security of your residence hall room is required. Under no circumstance is your room combination to be shared with non-roommates. Most on-campus theft is caused by room combination sharing. It is your responsibility to keep this code secure.
- **Security Screens:** In order to ensure your safety, residence hall rooms are equipped with locked screens. The tabs on these screens should not be removed



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unless an emergency situation arises. Removal of the tab on the screen is a violation of policy and may result in fines and conduct action. Students may report any missing red tabs to their Resident Director by September 15th without incurring a charge.

- **Means of Egress:** Within student rooms/suites/apartments, means or views of egress cannot be blocked in any fashion. Items found obstructing means or views of egress will be confiscated and discarded without compensation to the owner. Door closers have been installed on all student room/suite/apartment doors for added safety in the event of a fire and may not be tampered with by students.

- **Tampering with Fire Safety Equipment:** interfering with a fire alarm system, interfering with fire personnel and/or tampering with or removing fire fighting apparatus, including but not limited to hoses, sprinkler heads or pipes, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers or other fire safety equipment is prohibited. Overhead lights, smoke detector, sprinkler system, air conditioning unit, wall sockets, etc. may not be covered by any posters, pictures, tapestries, flags, or cloth. Tapestries, flags and cloth cannot be any larger than 5' x 7'. No item can be hung from the ceiling.

- **Smoking:** Boston College is a Smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited at all times in or on all Property of Boston College regardless of location. Smoking is defined “as the burning, inhaling, or exhaling, by means of any kind of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, hookah, vaporizer or other device, and any tobacco or other plant product, including marijuana.

- **Fire Evacuation:** Full student cooperation and participation in all fire drills or other safety-related evacuations of buildings is mandatory. Whenever a fire alarm sounds or a University or Fire Department official calls for an evacuation of the residence hall, all residents and their guests must immediately leave the building by the nearest available exit. The last person to leave a room or apartment must close the door.

Resident students are responsible for learning their residence hall room's two nearest emergency exits and are to evacuate the building by using the staircases. Elevators are not to be used during and evacuation of the building.

Residents should stand outside of the building and away from the entrances during a fire or fire drill. Residents are not to reenter the building until explicitly instructed to do so by a University or Fire Department official.

Removal of, or vandalism to, any Emergency Evacuation Plan or holder posted on room doors or throughout the building is not allowed. Evacuation Plans



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Should not be obstructed or covered by posters or similar devices.

Violation of any of the above expectations may result in University conduct action.

Students with disabilities who may need assistance in the event of a fire alarm or emergency should inform the Resident Director of their placement at the beginning of the year. Students with mobility, sight and hearing impairments should also use the resources of the Disabilities Services Office within the Student Outreach and Support Office. This office can supply a waiver for students to sign regarding the sharing room number to emergency personnel in the event of an evacuation.

Prohibited Items:

- **Flammable and combustible liquids/gases** (including but not limited to propane, butane, gasoline, and paint thinner).
- **Barbecue grills** are provided in the backyards of all Modular Apartments, and no other grills are permitted. Only match-lit barbecue coal is permitted. The use of any kind of charcoal lighter fluid is prohibited.
- **All non-university mattresses** are prohibited in the residence halls. Students who need to bring their own mattress into the residence halls for medical reasons must receive authorization from the Associate Vice President or his or her designee. All mattresses must meet local and state fire regulations.
- **Mattress pads with exposed foam** (e.g. “egg crate” style) are prohibited. Mattress pads that are covered or encased, or made from alternative material (e.g. down, polyester), are allowed.
- **Holiday decorations** are not permitted on outside room doors or in hallways. No exterior lights are permitted on the exterior of the Modular Apartments. Live trees, garland and wreaths are not permitted within the residence halls. Only fire retardant artificial trees are allowed within the residence halls. Students are liable for all damages resulting from the negligent placement of holiday decorations in their room/suite/apartment. Students can have two strands of holiday lights in their bedroom throughout the academic year
- **Candles, hookahs, incense, and sources of open flame** are prohibited in student rooms.
- **Posters, flags and other wall-hangings** must be used sparingly and are not to be hung from the ceiling, or in a location that will cover or interfere with light fixtures, outlets, or other appliances.
- **Space heaters, heating blankets, air conditioning units, torchiere-style halogen lights/lamps, and any lamps with more than three arms** are prohibited.



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Self-balancing scooters, also known as hover boards, are prohibited from all residential facilities.

- **Only three-pronged, grounded, heavy-duty (12 or 14 gauge) power strips or surge protectors** must be used in the event that the number of electrical appliances exceeds the number of electrical outlets. These must be UL approved with a circuit breaker.
- **Only low-voltage microwaves** (800 Watts or less) are permitted in the halls.
- **No full sized refrigerators** may be brought to campus. Refrigerators brought to campus must have dimensions that do not exceed 24 inches wide x 24 inches deep x 36 inches high. It is recommended that units brought to campus be Energy Star certified. In apartments and suites where common area refrigerators are provided by Boston College, each student may bring a personal refrigerator that does not exceed the dimensions of 24 inches wide x 24 inches deep x 36 inches high.
- In Walsh Hall, four-person suites, Upper Campus, Newton Campus, 66 Commonwealth Avenue and Greycliff residence halls, electrical heat producing appliances such as **hot pots, hot plates, toasters, toaster ovens, electric frying pans, sandwich grills, waffle irons, "George Foreman" grills, coffee makers, steamers, and the like are prohibited. Single brew coffee makers and electric tea kettles are allowed and must be unplugged when not in use.**
- In Vanderslice, 90 St. Thomas More Drive, Stayer Hall suites and Walsh Hall eight-person suites, and Gabelli, Voute, Ignacio, Rubenstein, Reservoir Apartments, Thomas More Apartments, and the Modular Apartment kitchen areas have been provided with special outlets for appliances. **Only cooking appliances with a thermostatic control are allowed. Hot plates are prohibited in all residence halls.**



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Mandatory Minimum Sanctions:

Violation	Sanction(s)
Deliberately setting off fire alarm	Deferred Housing Suspension, University Probation, repayment of all costs, educational sanction
Negligent alarm	1 st violation: Conversational Resolution, cost of damage 2 nd violation: Administrative Warning, cost of damage
Tampering with equipment (i.e. smoke detector, fire extinguisher, fire alarm, covering of sprinklers and/or pipes)	Deferred Housing Suspension, University Probation, repayment of all costs, educational sanction
Failure to evacuate	Administrative Warning, educational sanction
Possession of a burnt wick/burning candle	1 st violation: Disciplinary Probation, educational sanction 2 nd violation: Deferred Housing Suspension, University Probation, educational sanction
Tampering with screen/red tab	Administrative Warning, \$100 fine, educational sanction
Propping door	Administrative Warning, \$200 fine, educational sanction

For Additional Safety Information, Contact:

- Boston College, Office of Residential Life, 617-552-3060
- Boston College, Environmental Health and Safety, 617-552-0308
- Boston College Police Department (BCPD), 617-552-4440

Online Resources and Articles:

- [U.S. Fire Administration](#)
- [National Fire Protection Association](#)
- [Campus Firewatch](#)

