

Texas A&M University-Commerce Annual Fire Safety Report on Student Housing

Higher Education Campus Fire Safety Standards and Measures



A&M
COMMERCE

2024 Annual Fire Safety Report

Compiled by the University Police Department and the Department of Facilities & Construction

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RESIDENTIAL LIVING AND LEARNING MISSION STATEMENT

Residential Living and Learning is an integral part of the University experience; creating safe, supportive, inclusive communities that foster personal and academic growth.

ABOUT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

At Texas A&M University-Commerce, we transform lives through our mission to **“Educate. Discover. Achieve.”** With locations all over Dallas and East Texas, we deliver 130 unique academic degrees and serve almost 11,000 students.

Our Mission

Educate. Discover. Achieve.

Our Vision

As a premier institution of higher education in East Texas, we are a student-ready university. We lead in social mobility, achieving academic excellence in a wide range of traditional and interdisciplinary programs and serve as a national leader in the advancement of competency-based education. We further knowledge through impactful research and creative activity that benefits the region we serve and beyond. Recognized nationally for our innovative spirit and unique rural-urban identity, we promote an environment where all are valued, providing access and opportunities to ensure student success, career preparedness, and professional development for all members of the university community.

10 Unique Qualities of A&M-Commerce

Quality Academic Programs

From accounting to electrical engineering, A&M-Commerce offers more than **130 academic degrees** from six university colleges. U.S. News & World Report has ranked several programs at Texas A&M University-Commerce among the top in the nation.

Internships and Job Placement

The university's [**Student Career Preparedness**](#) office helps match students with internships and job opportunities in top-notch industries. From creating strong resumes to honing interview skills, Student Career Preparedness gives students an edge in the job market.

Welcoming Campus Culture

Known for its friendly campus atmosphere, A&M-Commerce strives to help every student feel like a valued member of the Lion family. Students enjoy an exciting campus

experience as they participate in a thriving [Greek community](#) and **100+ student organizations**.

State-of-the-Art Facilities

Among the university's many outstanding facilities, the **Nursing and Health Sciences Building** features a state-of-the-art simulation hospital where future healthcare leaders practice life-saving skills in a realistic clinical setting.

Convenient Learning Sites

A&M-Commerce offers many [learning sites](#) across Dallas-Fort Worth as well as a large selection of online classes. The university's newest site—[A&M-Commerce at Dallas](#)—towers above North Central Expressway and places students in one of the nation's global centers!

Entrepreneurship Program

Among the university's many innovative programs, [Venture College](#) empowers budding entrepreneurs to develop and launch their products and business ideas.

Hands-on Agriculture Program

A&M-Commerce offers one of the nation's only [agriculture colleges](#) where students experiment with sustainable growing methods to produce their own wheat, cotton and corn crops on a **1,300-acre farm**.

Leader in Texas Education

A&M-Commerce is a leading producer of certified Texas educators. More than **360 fully certified educators** received their certificates during the 2021-2022 academic year. Notably, **95% of A&M-Commerce graduates** pass the initial statewide teacher certification pedagogy examination.

Show-Stopping Music Program

The university's [music department](#) is highly sought after by aspiring musicians and music educators. A&M-Commerce is an **All-Steinway School**, a designation bestowed by the prestigious Steinway & Sons piano company. The university is also the world's first institution to receive a Spirio Technology designation.

Powerhouse NCAA Athletics Program

The A&M-Commerce Lions are an athletic powerhouse. They claimed the 2017 NCAA Division II Football National Championship. In 2022, the Lions made a move to NCAA Division I as part of the **Southland Conference**.

Discover more about what makes A&M-Commerce unique at [tamuc.edu](#).

HISTORY OF A&M-COMMERCE

Established in 1889, Texas A&M University-Commerce proudly maintains a 135-year legacy of excellence. A&M-Commerce is the third-largest university in the prestigious Texas A&M University System.

Historical Timeline

- **1889**-William Leonidas Mayo founded **East Texas Normal College** in Cooper, Texas.
- **1894**-The Cooper site was destroyed by fire, and the university moved to its present-day location in Commerce.
- **1917**-On March 14, a bill passed in the state legislature making the university a state-funded college. On the same day, Professor Mayo died suddenly before receiving the news that his college would live on. Subsequently, the name changed to **East Texas State Normal College**.
- **1923**-The school was renamed **East Texas State Teachers College**.
- **1935**-Graduate education entered the curriculum.
- **1957**-The state legislature, recognizing that the university had broadened from teacher education alone, changed the university's name to **East Texas State College**.
- **1962**-The first doctoral program was inaugurated.
- **1965**-The university's name changed to **East Texas State University**.
- **1996**-The university's name changed to **Texas A&M University-Commerce** when the university joined the Texas A&M system.

FIRE REPORTING AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REPORTING FIRES:

On campus phones - Police/Fire/Medical 9-911

Off campus or cellular phones – 911 or (903) 886-5111

Per federal law, Texas A&M University-Commerce is required to annually disclose statistical data on all fires that occur in on-campus housing facilities. Listed below are the **non-emergency** phone numbers to call to report fires that have **already** been extinguished in on-campus student housing. These telephone numbers are for fires for which you are unsure whether the A&M Commerce University Police may already be aware. If you find evidence of such a fire or if you hear about such a fire, please contact one of the following:

University Police Department – (903) 886-5868

Main Campus – Residential Living and Learning – (903) 886-5797

Farm Complex – College of Agricultural and Natural Resources – (903) 886-5358

Facilities & Construction – (903) 468-6006

When calling, please provide as much information as possible about the location, date, time, and cause of the fire.

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Physical Plant – (903) 886-5761

Fire Department – (903) 886-1147

REPORT

This report is developed as a requirement of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315).

This report does not include any information required to be reported under the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act Annual Report. Information regarding the Clery report is available by contacting the University Police Department at (903) 886-5868 or on the web at:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/crimestats>

This report contains the prior three year's data.

FIRE LOG INFORMATION/LOCATION

Texas A&M University-Commerce maintains a fire log that is available to the public.

The log is kept in the Facilities & Construction Department and may be accessed on the web at: [Fire Log](#)

Additional information can be requested on the web at: [Public Information](#)

DEFINITIONS

(Source: Department of Education)

Cause of fire: The factor or factors that give rise to a fire. The causal factor may be, but is not limited to, the result of an intentional or unintentional action, mechanical failure, or act of nature.

Fire: Any instance of open flame or other burning in a place not intended to contain the burning or in an uncontrolled manner.

Fire drill: A supervised practice of a mandatory evacuation of a building for a fire.

Fire-related injury: Any instance in which a person is injured as a result of a fire, including an injury sustained from a natural or accidental cause, while involved in fire control, attempting rescue, or escaping from the dangers of the fire. The term “person” may include students, employees, visitors, firefighters, or any other individuals.

Fire-related death: Any instance in which a person—

- (1) Is killed as a result of a fire, including death resulting from a natural or accidental cause while involved in fire control, attempting rescue, or escaping from the dangers of a fire; or
- (2) Dies within one year of injuries sustained as a result of the fire.

Fire safety system: Any mechanism or system related to the detection of a fire, the warning resulting from a fire, or the control of a fire. This may include sprinkler systems or other fire extinguishing systems, fire detection devices, stand-alone smoke alarms, devices that alert one to the presence of a fire, such as horns, bells, or strobe lights; smoke-control and reduction mechanisms; and fire doors and walls that reduce the spread of a fire.

Value of property damage: The estimated value of the loss of the structure and contents, in terms of the cost of replacement in like kind and quantity. This estimate should include contents damaged by fire, and related damages caused by smoke, water, and overhaul; however, it does not include indirect loss, such as business interruption.

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING INFORMATION

Sorority Housing/Women's Halls

The Sorority/Women's Halls (F Halls) consist of six 7,604 square foot reinforced concrete and brick two-story 40 bed residence halls and are made up of double occupancy rooms (with a private room option), community showers, lounges and large kitchen.



Whitley Hall

Whitley Hall is a 219,096 square foot reinforced concrete and brick twelve story 510 bed high-rise residence hall and is made up of double occupancy rooms (with some private room option), shared showers, community lounges, and a main lobby. Whitley Hall was offline fall of 2021. Whitley Hall was brought back online the fall of 2022.



New Pride Apartments

New Pride Apartments consists of six separate wood frame and masonry two-story apartment buildings (Building 1 is 20,271 square foot and Buildings 2-6 are 15,917 square foot each) with a total of 300 beds and a 3,173 square foot community center. Each apartment comes with a private bedroom, two bathrooms, and a shared living and kitchen space.



Prairie Crossing Apartments

Prairie Crossing Apartments is a 166,376 square foot wood frame and masonry four-story 282 bed apartment building with suite-style living accommodations. Each apartment (one, two, or four bedrooms) comes with a private bedroom, one or two bathrooms, and a shared living and kitchen space.



Pride Rock Hall

Pride Rock Hall is an 85,970 square foot wood frame and masonry three story 250 bed residence hall and is made up of 2-1 suite style rooms (residents have private bedrooms and share a bathroom with one roommate).



Phase II Hall

Phase II Hall is an 184,745 square foot wood frame and masonry four story 540 bed residence hall and is made up of 2-1 suite style rooms (residents have private bedrooms and share a bathroom with one roommate).



Phase III Hall

Phase III Hall is an 136,593 square foot wood frame and masonry four story 490 bed residence hall and is made up of double and private rooms and centralized private bathrooms.



Twin Oaks Blueberry Farm House

The Blueberry Farm House is a 4,119 square foot wood frame and siding two story 7 bed residence/educational facility made up of individual rooms, community showers, lounges and a large kitchen. The house is located on the Farm Complex and is managed by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Students began living at the house June 2018.



Berry Hall

Berry Hall is a 61,567 square foot reinforced concrete, steel, and brick two-story 296 bed residence hall and is made up of double occupancy rooms (with some private room option), community bathrooms, lounges, and a main lobby. Berry Hall was taken offline in the second half of 2017. Building is **inactive**.



Smith Hall

Smith Hall is an 81,192 square foot reinforced concrete and brick three-story 410 bed residence hall and is made up of double occupancy rooms (with some private room option), half baths in suites, community showers, lounges, and a main lobby. Smith Hall was taken offline in the second half of 2020. Building is **inactive**.



West Halls

The West Halls are 5,016 – 7,965 square foot reinforced concrete and brick two-story 16 – 24 bed residence halls made up of two-bedroom/one-bathroom apartments consisting of private bedrooms and a shared bathroom, kitchen and living space. The West Halls include Craddock Hall, Bledsoe Hall, Neu Hall, Fling Hall, Webster Hall, and Wray Hall. The West Halls were taken offline the second half of 2021. Buildings are **inactive**.



COVID-19 Temporary Housing

The COVID-19 temporary housing is a 2,204 square foot wood frame and brick one story duplex. The duplex may be used sporadically as needed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This housing has been discontinued as of the end of 2021. Building is **inactive**.



ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING FACILITIES - FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS

Residential Facility	Fire Detection System Information	Fire Sprinkler System Information	Fire Extinguisher Information	Number of Fire Drills Held
Smith Hall	Fully addressable *1	Fully Sprinkled *3	Common Areas	N/A
Berry Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	N/A
F1 Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	4
F2 Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	4
F3 Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	4
F4 Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	4
F5 Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	4
F6 Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	4
Craddock Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	N/A
Bledsoe Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	N/A
Neu Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	N/A
Fling Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	N/A
Webster Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	N/A
Wray Hall	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	N/A
Whitley Hall	Fully addressable *1	Fully Sprinkled *3	Common Areas	4
New Pride Apartments	Partially addressable *2	Fully sprinkled *3	Common Areas; Individual Rooms	6
Prairie Crossing Apartments	Partially addressable *2	Fully sprinkled *3	Common Areas; Individual Rooms	4
Pride Rock Hall	Fully addressable *1	Fully Sprinkled *3	Common Areas	4
Phase II Hall	Fully addressable *1	Fully Sprinkled *3	Common Areas	4
Phase III Hall	Fully addressable *1	Fully Sprinkled *3	Common Areas	6
Twin Oaks Blueberry Farm House	Fully addressable *1	None	Common Areas	3
COVID-19 Temporary Housing	Non-system smoke alarms only.	None	None	N/A

*1. Fully addressable fire alarm system is defined as having detection/notification in each sleeping room & in all common areas; monitored on site by UPD 24 hours per day.

*2. Partially addressable fire alarm system is defined as having non-system smoke alarms and system notification in each apartment and system components in all other areas; monitored on site by UPD 24 hours per day.

*3. Fully Sprinkled is defined as having sprinklers in both the common areas and individual rooms.

FIRE STATISTICS

(Calendar Year 2021)

Residential Facilities	Total Fires in Each Building	Fire Number	Cause of Fire	Injuries requiring treatment	Deaths	Property Value Damage
Smith Hall, 2201 Hwy 50	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Berry Hall, 2301 Hwy 50	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F1 Hall, 1600 Education Dr	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F2 Hall, 1604 Education Dr	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F3 Hall, 1606 Education Dr	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F4 Hall, 1609 Lee St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F5 Hall, 1605 Lee St	1	1	Unintentional – cell phone overheated & caught fire	0	0	\$100-999
F6 Hall, 1601 Lee St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Craddock Hall, 2501 W Halls Ave	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bledsoe Hall, 2109 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Neu Hall, 2115 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fling Hall, 2500 Hwy 50	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Webster Hall, 2003 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wray Hall, 2001 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Whitley Hall, 2001 Culver St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Pride Apartments, 2000 Walnut St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prairie Crossing Apartments, 1809 Monroe St	1	1	Unintentional – small grease fire while cooking	0	0	\$0-99
Pride Rock Hall, 2513 W Halls Ave	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Phase II Hall, 2501 W Neal St	1	1	Unintentional – small electrical fire at outlet due to short in vacuum cleaner	0	0	\$100-999
Phase III Hall, 2400 Hwy 24	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Twin Oaks Blueberry Farm House, 2965 Hwy 24, Campbell, TX 75422	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
COVID-19 Temporary Housing, 1704 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FIRE STATISTICS

(Calendar Year 2022)

Residential Facilities	Total Fires in Each Building	Fire Number	Cause of Fire	Injuries requiring treatment	Deaths	Property Value Damage
Smith Hall, 2201 Hwy 50	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Berry Hall, 2301 Hwy 50	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F1 Hall, 1600 Education Dr	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F2 Hall, 1604 Education Dr	1	1	Unintentional - Oven fire while cooking	0	0	\$100-999
F3 Hall, 1606 Education Dr	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F4 Hall, 1609 Lee St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F5 Hall, 1605 Lee St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F6 Hall, 1601 Lee St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Craddock Hall, 2501 W Halls Ave	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bledsoe Hall, 2109 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Neu Hall, 2115 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fling Hall, 2500 Hwy 50	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Webster Hall, 2003 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wray Hall, 2001 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Whitley Hall, 2001 Culver St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Pride Apartments, 2000 Walnut St	1	1	Unintentional - Oven fire while cooking	0	0	\$100-999
Prairie Crossing Apartments, 1809 Monroe St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pride Rock Hall, 2513 W Halls Ave	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Phase II Hall, 2501 W Neal St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Phase III Hall, 2400 Hwy 24	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Twin Oaks Blueberry Farm House, 2965 Hwy 24, Campbell, TX 75422	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
COVID-19 Temporary Housing, 1704 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FIRE STATISTICS

(Calendar Year 2023)

Residential Facilities	Total Fires in Each Building	Fire Number	Cause of Fire	Injuries requiring treatment	Deaths	Property Value Damage
Smith Hall, 2201 Hwy 50	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Berry Hall, 2301 Hwy 50	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F1 Hall, 1600 Education Dr	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F2 Hall, 1604 Education Dr	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F3 Hall, 1606 Education Dr	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F4 Hall, 1609 Lee St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F5 Hall, 1605 Lee St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F6 Hall, 1601 Lee St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Craddock Hall, 2501 W Halls Ave	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bledsoe Hall, 2109 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Neu Hall, 2115 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fling Hall, 2500 Hwy 50	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Webster Hall, 2003 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wray Hall, 2001 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Whitley Hall, 2001 Culver St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Pride Apartments, 2000 Walnut St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prairie Crossing Apartments, 1809 Monroe St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pride Rock Hall, 2513 W Halls Ave	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Phase II Hall, 2501 W Neal St	1	1	Undetermined – Cigarette appeared to start fire in dumpster	0	0	\$0
Phase III Hall, 2400 Hwy 24	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Twin Oaks Blueberry Farm House, 2965 Hwy 24, Campbell, TX 75422	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
COVID-19 Temporary Housing, 1704 Jackson St	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FIRE SAFETY POLICIES

Unapproved Appliances and Household Items

To help provide a safe environment for all residents, all items brought into the residence communities (including apartments) must be approved for use. Items that have an open heating source or pose a threat to fire safety are not permitted within any residential community (including apartments). This includes but is not limited to Halogen lamps/bulbs, hot plates, rice cookers, air fryers, crock pots, coffee pots, deep fryers, broilers, and toaster ovens. .

Prohibited Items

Due to safety and security concerns, the following items are strictly prohibited within the residence halls. Electrical balance-hoverboards/scooters/skateboards, sun lamps/tanning beds, shopping carts, string lights, scented plug-ins, warmers, multiple socket boxes, electric blankets, gasoline cans, candles, incense, oil lamps, extension cords, space heaters. This list is not all-inclusive; any item that poses health and safety risks to the community, poses a risk of damaging University property, and/or negatively impacts building function and operations is prohibited.

Arson

Starting a fire, no matter the size, within a residence hall or within the immediate surroundings outside a residence hall is strictly prohibited. Violations of this rule may also be considered a violation of state law, including setting fire to items on a door, bulletin board, or any other flammable material within the residence hall. Grilling is only permitted within designated grill areas.

Cooking

Cooking in the residence halls is allowed with approved cooking appliances only (see unapproved appliances and household items policy for more information). Residents are responsible for ensuring that proper sanitation, ventilation, and fire safety precautions are taken. Cooking is only permitted in apartment kitchens and residence hall community kitchens unless using a microwave. Community kitchens must be kept clean at all times (dishes clean, food stored properly, etc.). Any damages resulting from improper use of kitchens or food disposal will be billed to the individual(s) responsible.

Door Propping/Pulling

Due to safety concerns, propping or forceful pulling open any residence hall door, including laundry room doors, is strictly prohibited. Residents responsible for this violation will be charged \$50 per instance to their student account.

Fire Safety

All residence halls are equipped with fire safety equipment. This includes but is not limited to, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, pull stations, fire and evacuation signs, and fire exit doors. Residents and their guests are required to abide by the following policies and guidelines:

1. Residents are not permitted to tamper with or destroy fire safety equipment. Please see the Code of Conduct.
2. Residents are required to exit the building during all fire alarms.
3. Residents are not permitted to possess items with an open flame, whether lit or not, such as candles.
4. Residents are permitted one UL-approved power strip per wall outlet and are prohibited from plugging one power strip into another. All major appliances (refrigerators and microwaves) must be plugged directly into the wall outlet. Extension cords, including light strings, are prohibited.
5. Residents are prohibited from pulling on or propping any Fire Exit or Exterior Building Door.
6. Emergency exits are to be used for emergency evacuations. The misuse of emergency exits will be documented and handled judicially, which could result in a fine and/ or disciplinary action.
7. Paths to the exit door, windows, hallways, and safety equipment should be kept clear at all times.
8. Fireworks, Smoke Bombs, and Explosives of any kind are not permitted within the entire campus community.
9. Only 20% of each side of room doors may be decorated.
10. Tampering with the electrical/wiring system, painting, and installing any additional property is prohibited.
11. Covering or removing smoke detectors may incur a fine of up to \$500 and may result in removal from Housing.
12. Storing or using electric vehicles (e.g., e-scooters, e-bikes, e-skateboards, etc.), including batteries, is not permitted and may incur a fine of up to \$500, confiscation, and/or resident removal from Housing.

Room Modifications/Decoration

Residence Hall rooms are equipped with items that have been deemed to be fire-preventative and safe. Residents are required to abide by the following policies regarding room modifications/decoration:

1. Residents are required to leave their room in the same condition as found on their room condition report
2. Residents are prohibited from painting their rooms
3. Residents are prohibited from using command strips or other materials to hang items. These items remove paint from walls. Failure to abide by this policy will result in a fee being assessed to the student's account
4. Residents **may** use industrial pushpins and small picture hanging nails to hang items.
5. Students who place items in windows that the University determines to be offensive and/or obscene will be asked to remove the items immediately and are subject to the conduct process
6. No additional lock mechanisms may be installed in room doors
7. Residents will assume responsibility for any damage beyond normal wear and tear to residential facilities
8. Residents are not permitted to use double-sided tape on any surface as it will cause excessive damage.

Smoking/Tobacco/Vaping

Smoking of any substance, including e-cigarettes and vapes, is prohibited in all campus facilities, including porches, balconies, stairwells, sidewalks, and enclosed inner courtyards. The smell of smoke, ashes, tobacco, and/or illegal substances is prohibited. Possession of smoking devices, such as pipes, hookahs, vape pens, etc., within the residential community is also prohibited.

Sprinkler System

In addition to the fire alarm system, sprinklers have been installed in many residential communities. These are for the safety and protection of the residents, their belongings, and the property of the University. According to the NFPA 2018, nothing can be stacked, stored, or constructed within 18 inches of a sprinkler head (non-sprinkler residential communities are 24" from the ceiling). **Hanging objects from sprinkler heads is strictly prohibited.** Report any damage to the sprinkler system to the front desk of your residential community immediately.

Smoke Detectors

Each residence hall room is equipped with a smoke detector. Smoke detectors in rooms are inspected annually by the Department of Campus Operations and Safety. If at any time the smoke detector starts beeping periodically, it may mean the battery needs to be replaced. Submit a work order for the battery to be replaced. Do not remove the smoke detector; this is a direct violation of RLL Policy, notifying UPD to respond to your residence.

FIRE DRILL AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Fire Drills

For the protection and safety of our community, unannounced fire drills will be held during the academic year. Your cooperation is mandatory to become familiar with evacuation routes. Anytime the alarm sounds, residents must exit the building. Participation in fire drills is required by state law. If you are confirmed to have an emotional/support animal, you are responsible for the animal during the fire drill.

Fire Alarm System/Student Housing Evacuation

Each building is equipped with a fire alarm system. Residents are required to evacuate the building during the sounding of all alarms unless told otherwise by a member of the building staff and/or the University Police Department. Residents are prohibited from tampering with these systems, including but not limited to pulling fire alarms when no fire or threat of fire is present, playing with fire extinguishers, covering smoke detectors, and hanging items on or playing with the sprinkler system within the building. Failure to adhere to this policy could result in a fine of up to \$500. (See Policy and Procedures for evacuation plans.)

When an alarm sounds residents should do the following:

1. Immediately close windows;
2. Grab keys, phone, and University ID card;

3. Wake your roommate and inform them of the alarm;
4. Put on shoes and grab a jacket (if during night and/or colder months)
5. Check the door or doorknob. If it is cool, open and proceed towards the closest emergency exit to assigned meeting location. If it is hot, do not open it, place a towel under the door if smoke is either seen or smelled, call 911 and inform them of your location.
6. Leave door closed and walk to exit. If smoke is encountered, stay low for air.
7. Do not use an elevator.
8. Do not re-enter the building under any circumstance until cleared by UPD or Residential Living and Learning Staff member.

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Texas A&M University-Commerce offers the following fire safety education and training programs:

- Hall Directors, Desk Attendants, and Resident Assistants are provided fire and life safety training, including hands-on fire extinguisher training, annually.
- All students are provided copies of the Residential Living & Learning Community Handbook which contains fire safety and prevention information.
- All students have access to the fire safety and prevention training available on the website [The Peoples Burn Foundation Education](http://The%20Peoples%20Burn%20Foundation%20Education).
- In conjunction with the Texas State Fire Marshal's office, implemented the "Have an Exit Strategy" program through the publication of the link for the website <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/exit-strategy.html>.

The above links, along with additional information, are available on the Facilities & Construction Department website at:

[Facilities & Construction](#)



FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION PROGRAM

Texas A&M University-Commerce conducts several levels of fire and life safety inspections in all of our residence halls and apartment facilities.

Inspections of fire doors, fire extinguishers, exit signs, and emergency lighting are conducted in all common areas on a periodic basis.

The University's Facilities & Construction Department coordinates inspections, testing, and maintenance of fire safety equipment in compliance with the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association.

All on-campus living facilities, including Main Campus and the Farm Complex, are inspected periodically by the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office.

Residential Living and Learning Staff will conduct Health and Safety Inspections four to six times a year. These checks will be announced and are made to ensure that:

1. University property is being used properly;
2. Reasonable standards of room cleanliness, safety, and sanitation are being observed;
3. Maintenance needs are reported;
4. RLL procedures are being observed;
5. All directives of the State Fire Marshal and Fire Safety are being observed.

PLANS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN FIRE SAFETY

(if determined necessary)

The University continues to invest in the maintenance of fire and life safety systems and improvements when necessary. No plans determined necessary as of the release date of this report.

REPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

For purposes of including fire statistics in the annual fire safety report, employees and students should report all instances that a fire occurred in on-campus student housing to the individuals listed below. These individuals also can provide additional information about this report.

Michael Stark, Director
Residential Living & Learning
Michael.Stark@tamuc.edu
(903) 886-5795

John Harris, Director
Facilities & Construction
John.Harris@tamuc.edu
(903) 468-3129

Chad Ballard, Sergeant
University Police Department
Chad.Ballard@tamuc.edu
(903) 886-5872

Dr. Byron Housewright, Ph.D., Interim Associate Dean and Professor
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Byron.Housewright@tamuc.edu
(903) 886-5376