

# CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY

For Student with Disabilities



NATIONAL  
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NETWORK



## TALKING TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

- How many fire incidents are on your campus? Are the incidents usually accidental or intentional? Do you capture/maintain data on how students with disabilities are impacted by these incidents?
- Do you follow up with accessible public education and inform students of how to prevent these events in the future?
- Which buildings are protected with an automatic fire sprinkler system? Are all residential buildings ADA accessible and equipped with sprinklers?
- Does every student's room have a smoke alarm? Are students proactively informed that accessible smoke alarms can be provided? Who can students with disabilities contact should they require an accessible alarm? Accessible alarms may include but are not limited to those with Verbal alerts, strobe lights, Vibration notifications synced to pillow or bed shakers that are activated by alarms, devices that emit a mixed, low-pitched sound etc.
- Are students informed about the importance of maintaining clear doorways and hallways? How do officials address bikes, scooters and/or other equipment that obstruct accessible pathways for students with mobility devices (i.e. wheelchairs, canes, walkers etc.)?
- What is the school's disciplinary policy towards students that cause false alarms or fail to evacuate during an alarm? What accountability processes/disciplinary policies are in place to address designated staff who fail to follow accessible evacuation procedures?
- What measures exist to assure students who cannot self evacuate aren't unfairly disciplined? Is smoking allowed in dorm rooms or apartments? How do these rules impact students with respiratory considerations and other disabilities?
- What items are prohibited in the residence halls? Candles, Halogen Lamps? How can students request accommodations for devices/aids that may be prohibited? Are staff available to offer safety suggestions on the usage of requested items?
- What are small appliances acceptable to bring to school? Are there recommended limits or specific certified and accessible products that are safer to use? Does this list clarify that assistive technology/devices are permitted? Do the dorm rooms have enough outlets with enough power to feed energy needs especially as it pertains to students who are electricity dependent? Are there any available backup power sources? Will these sources automatically activate should primary power sources go down? Manual activation may cause significant delays if designated staff are off site during a power outage. Will the back up power sources be sufficient to support the energy needs of students who are electricity dependent?
- Do the residence hall staff receive accessible fire and life safety training? How often?
- How often do students with diverse disabilities get exposure to accessible fire and life safety training such as fire extinguisher training and inclusive evacuation drills?
- What other types of exercises does the school conduct regarding emergency planning and Preparedness? Are students with disabilities included in the planning, implementation and review of these trainings?
- Is accessible signage available to help students clearly identify alarms, extinguishers, emergency exits etc.? Are EM evacuation plans provided in accessible formats (i.e. braille, large print, electronic etc.)?



**Fire Safety Outreach provided by:**

**The Center for Campus Fire Safety and the National Disabilities Rights**

**Network [myccfs.org](http://myccfs.org) | [ndrn.org](http://ndrn.org)**

**Questions about disability inclusive emergency/fire safety strategies? Contact Justine "Justice" Shorter, NDRN's National Disaster Protection Advisor, by email at [Justine.Shorter@ndrn.org](mailto:Justine.Shorter@ndrn.org) or via phone at 202-880-2435.**