



Office of the Chief

Chief John R. Batiste
"Service with Humility"

*****For Immediate Release*****

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State Fire Marshal's Office
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Majority of Campus Fires Occur in Off-Campus Housing

Olympia – The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office advises parents that most of the college housing fires and fatalities since 2000 have occurred in off-campus housing. Colleges and universities around the country have made fire safety in on-campus housing a priority; however, there are no guarantees of proper maintenance and fire safety measures in private buildings surrounding campus.

To increase student safety in off-campus housing, the following tips are provided:

- Look for housing that is equipped with fire sprinkler systems, working smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Look for clearly labeled exit ways, and ensure exits ways are clear and unobstructed.
- Look for secured, undamaged electrical outlets that are not overloaded with extension cords or multi-plug adaptors.
- Be familiar with the building emergency evacuation plan, and know two ways out to a safe location.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at 360-596-3929.

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington States firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.

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