

**OBERLIN**  
COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY



**2025** ANNUAL  
FIRE SAFETY  
REPORT

# Oberlin College Annual Fire Safety Report

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## **Oberlin College Annual Fire Safety Report 2025**

*The information and statistics contained herein are being presented to the Oberlin College community in compliance with Fire Safety Procedures, Statistics, Reports and Documentation requirements of The Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) (HEOA), enacted August 14, 2008. It joins the Oberlin College Annual Security Report, complying with The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. Oberlin College publishes both reports on the web at <https://oberlin.edu/campus-safety> and in brochure format. Paper copies of each are available for individuals to pick up at the Office of Campus Safety, 140 West College Street, Suite C, Oberlin, OH 44074, or, to have a copy mailed to you, send a written request to the Office of Campus Safety by interoffice mail, or by email to [Dave.Bender@oberlin.edu](mailto:Dave.Bender@oberlin.edu). You may also make the request by phone: (440) 775-8444.*

**Oberlin College Office of Campus Safety  
140 West College Street, Suite C Oberlin, Ohio 44074  
Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance): 911**

*(Call goes directly to Lorain County Emergency 9-1-1, but not through the Oberlin College Campus Safety Office dispatching center)*

**Emergency Line: 440-775-8911  
Non-Emergency Service Number: 440-775-8444  
College Extension: 58911**

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**Disclaimer:** This document has been reformatted and edited from the original version, which was published at 11:15 a.m. October 1, 2025. This version of the report includes minor updates to improve clarity and accessibility, such as the addition of a table of contents, correction of typographical errors, updated links and contact information, and formatting enhancements. These changes are administrative only and do not affect any fire statistics, incident classifications, or policy content.

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*Stevenson Hall, Photo by © Bob Handelman*

## **Procedures for Reporting Fires on Campus**

Fire incidents, fires, fire alarms, suspected incidents that could turn into a fire, and suspicious activities should be reported in a timely manner to the Campus Safety office, 140 W. College St. Suite C, in person or by telephone to campus ext. 58911. The Campus Safety office can be dialed from most telephones on campus and may be reached from campus emergency “blue light” phones by activating the call button. College Village Housing and 137 Elm Street Housing must dial 440-775- 8911. Cellular telephones should include the local area code, (440) 775-8911.

Most campus buildings have fire alarm systems that activate upon detection of circumstances interpreted to be related to fire detection. If a fire alarm is not already sounding, occupants should activate the nearest fire alarm pull station, usually located adjacent to the exits.

Emergencies on campus may also be reported directly to the Lorain County 911 System by dialing 911 from your campus telephone. The countywide emergency 911 service will directly contact fire, law enforcement, or emergency medical services, who may request assistance from the office of Campus Safety. This service is not available when using the campus emergency “Blue Light” telephone system, and there is no automatic notification to the Campus Safety office through the county 911 system. If 911 is called first, follow up with a call to the Campus Safety Office at 440-775-8911 when safe to do so.

For purposes of including a fire in the statistics in the Annual Fire Safety report, students and employees should report all fires, even those that have been extinguished, or are being reported “after the fact” to the Office of Campus Safety, or to the Director or Assistant Director of Campus Safety directly.

## **General Description of On-Campus Housing Facilities Fire Safety Systems, Monitoring, and Response**

The Oberlin College fire alarm system in service for on-campus student residential halls complies with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 Chapter 6 through a microprocessor-based fire alarm system. The system sounds an alarm at the protected premises due to the manual operation of a fire alarm box (pull station) or the operation of protection equipment or systems, such as water flowing in a sprinkler system, the detection of smoke, or the detection of heat. The activation of an alarm (change of status of the initiating device) is communicated in accordance with NFPA 72 Chapter 8 via the public switched telephone network to a contracted central station monitoring service, whose servers and operators, upon receipt of the signal, take action as required by NFPA 72, including notification to the Lorain County Emergency 911 System, which in turn dispatches municipal fire department services (Oberlin Fire Department) to respond to the location of the alarm.

Oberlin College Campus Safety Communication Officers, located on campus at 140 West College Street, Suite C, receive notification on-premises at the Campus Safety office for residential hall fire alarms through a microprocessor-based portal and communicate a multiplex designated building zone or specific addressable alarm location to the Lorain County Emergency 911 system and to on-duty Campus Safety Officers. Communication officers also dispatch Campus Safety Officers in response to a notification from the monitoring service of alarms, trouble alarms, and supervisory alarms affecting College Village Housing units on Union and Goldsmith Streets (Union Street Housing), at 36 South Pleasant (Firelands), and at 137 Elm Street, or in response to community member

reports of fire alarms or fire-related incidents. Campus Safety Officers respond to the fire alarm or incident location to assist Oberlin Fire Department in accessing buildings or locations and provide information to the firefighters as needed. Campus Safety Officers confirm the evacuation of known persons affected by the alarm, communicate with and respond to the college community members affected by the fire alarm, and activate any On-Call System notification within the college according to situational requirements.

When information is received that a stand-alone fire alarm was activated or fire-related incidents have occurred in any of the college's Village Housing Units, the Campus Safety Communication Officers will notify the Lorain County Emergency 911 System. 911 operators will dispatch the Oberlin Fire Department to the scene of the alarm or incident. Campus Safety Officers are sent to the scene to assist as necessary. Residents of College Village Housing may also call the Lorain County Emergency 911 System directly to report their fire or fire alarm activation.

**Emergencies on campus may also be reported directly to the Lorain County 911 System by dialing 911 from your campus telephone.**

## Description of Fire Safety Systems for Each On-Campus Housing Facility

R-2 Residential Halls	Fire Alarm Type	Audible/ Visual Alarm	Heat/Smoke	Manual Fire Alarm (Pull Station)	Sprinkler System	Cooking Hoods	# Fire Drills Calendar Year 2024
Allencroft 134 South Professor Street	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	No	1	4
Asia House (Quadrangle) 40 West Lorain Street	Multiplex Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	2	4
Bailey House 208 North Professor Street	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	No	1	4
Baldwin Cottage 30 South Professor Street	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	2	4
Barnard House 148 North Professor Street	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	No	1	4
Barrows Hall 145 Woodland Street	Multiplex Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	No	3	4
Burton Hall 194 North Professor Street	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	2	4
Dascomb Hall 140 West College Steet	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	No	2	4

Description of Fire Safety Systems for Each On-Campus Housing Facility ... *chart continued.*

<b>R-2 Residential Halls</b>	<b>Fire Alarm Type</b>	<b>Audible/ Visual Alarm</b>	<b>Heat/Smoke</b>	<b>Manual Fire Alarm (Pull Station)</b>	<b>Sprinkler System</b>	<b>Cooking Hoods</b>	<b># Fire Drills Calendar Year 2024</b>
<b>East Hall 176 North Professor Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	No	1	4
<b>Fairchild House 93 Elm Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	No	2	4
<b>Firelands 136 South Pleasant Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	67	4
<b>Harkness House 113 West College Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	No	1	4
<b>Harvey House 96 South Professor Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1	4
<b>Johnson House 216 South Professor Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1	4
<b>Kade (German House) 104 South Professor Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1	4
<b>Kahn Hall 169 North Professor Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1	4

Description of Fire Safety Systems for Each On-Campus Housing Facility ... *chart continued.*

<b>R-2 Residential Halls</b>	<b>Fire Alarm Type</b>	<b>Audible/ Visual Alarm</b>	<b>Heat/Smoke</b>	<b>Manual Fire Alarm (Pull Station)</b>	<b>Sprinkler System</b>	<b>Cooking Hoods</b>	<b># Fire Drills Calendar Year 2024</b>
<b>Keep Cottage 154 North Main Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1	4
<b>Langston Hall 95 Union Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	2	4
<b>Lord – Saunders 126 Forest Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	2	4
<b>Noah Hall 167 Woodland Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1	4
<b>Old Barrows 207 South Professor Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	No	1	4
<b>Price 100 Forest Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1	4
<b>South Hall 121 Elm Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	No	3	4
<b>Talcott Hall 2 South Professor Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	2	4
<b>Tank Hall 110 East College Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1	4
<b>Zechiel House 207 Woodland Street</b>	Addressable Panel	Both	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, and Common Areas	Yes	No	1	4

## 2024 Apartment Style Housing Units

College Village Apartment Style Housing	Fire Alarm Type	Audible/ Visual Alarm	Heat/Smoke Detection HW— Hard Wired B— Battery Operated	Manual Fire Alarm (Pull Stations)	Sprinkler System	Cooking Hoods	Fire Extinguisher Provided
64 East College # 1, 2	Stand alone	Audible	HW-2, B-6	No	No	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
108 East College #1,2,3	Stand alone	Audible	HW-1, B-5	No	No	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
120 East College	Stand alone	Audible	B-12	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
20 East Lorain	Stand alone	Audible	HW-2, B-3	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
22 East Lorain	Stand alone	Audible	HW-2, B-3	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
55 East Lorain	Stand alone	Audible	B-5	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
61 East Lorain	Stand alone	Audible	B-5	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
63 E. Lorain	Stand alone	Audible	B-5	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
37 Elmwood Place	Stand alone	Audible	B-4	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
68 Elmwood Place	Stand alone	Audible	B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
74 Elmwood Place	Stand alone	Audible	B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
75 Elmwood Place #1, 2	Stand alone	Audible	B-1	No	No	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
83 Elmwood Place	Stand alone	Audible	B1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
84 Elmwood Place	Stand alone	Audible	HW-1, B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
137 Elm 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	HW-36	Yes	No	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
148/150 Elm A, B, C, D	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	HW—25	4 PS	No	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
268 Goldsmith Lane Units A, B, C	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)

2024 Apartment Style Housing Units... *chart continued.*

College Village Apartment Style Housing	Fire Alarm Type	Audible/ Visual Alarm	Heat/Smoke Detection HW— Hard Wired B— Battery Operated	Manual Fire Alarm (Pull Stations)	Sprinkler System	Cooking Hoods	Fire Extinguisher Provided
<b>270 Goldsmith Lane Units A, B, C</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>272 Goldsmith Lane Units A, B, C</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>276 Goldsmith Lane Units A, B, C</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>224 Goldsmith Lane Units A, B, C</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>290 Goldsmith Lane Units A, B, C</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>29 North Cedar</b>	Stand alone	Audible	HW – 1, B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>35 North Cedar</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-10	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>39 North Cedar</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-10	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>45 North Cedar</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-10 / B-8	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>69 North Cedar</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-6	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>140 North Main</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-6, B-2, B- 2	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>148 North Main</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-9	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>168 North Main #1 &amp; #2</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-1	No	No	1	1 in each (Kitchen)

College Village Apartment Style Housing	Fire Alarm Type	Audible/ Visual Alarm	Heat/Smoke Detection HW— Hard Wired B— Battery Operated	Manual Fire Alarm (Pull Stations)	Sprinkler System	Cooking Hoods	Fire Extinguisher Provided
<b>12 North Pleasant</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>16 North Pleasant</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>36 North Pleasant Units 2, 4, 6, 8</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-6	No	No	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>40 North Pleasant</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-8	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>41 North Pleasant</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-4	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>62 North Pleasant</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-3	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>66 North Pleasant</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-5	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>70 North Pleasant</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-6, HW-2	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>76 North Pleasant</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-5	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>195 North Professor</b>	Integrated Wired; Stand-alone	Audible; Strobe visual	HW-8	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>201 North Professor</b>	Stand alone	Audible	HW-6, B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>258 North Professor</b>	Stand alone	Audible	HW-4	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>270 North Professor</b>	Stand alone	Audible	HW-6, B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>36 South Pleasant (Firelands Apartments - 67 Units)</b>	Addressable Panel	Yes	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>78 South Professor</b>	Integrated	Audible;	Smoke Detectors	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>96 Union Street A, B, C, 96, 102, 110, 118, and 126 Union and</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)

2024 Apartment Style Housing Units... *chart continued.*

College Village Apartment Style Housing	Fire Alarm Type	Audible/ Visual Alarm	Heat/Smoke Detection HW— Hard Wired B— Battery Operated	Manual Fire Alarm (Pull Stations)	Sprinkler System	Cooking Hoods	Fire Extinguisher Provided
<b>102 Union Street A, B, C</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>110 Union Street A, B, C</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>118 Union Street A, B, C</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>126 Union Street A, B, C</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	Residential Rooms, Mechanical, Common Areas	Yes	Wet Pipe Water Flow Protection	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>129 West College</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-8	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>135 West College Apt. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>	Stand Alone	Audible	B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>143 West College Unit 1, 2E, 2W</b>	Stand Alone	Audible	HW-1, B-5	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>149 West College</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-7	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>190 West College Unit 1, 2</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>152 West Lorain</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-9	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>153 West Lorain</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	HW—25	4 PS	No	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>158 West Lorain</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-8	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>159 West Lorain</b>	Monitored Addressable Panel	Audible; Strobe visual	HW—25	4 PS	No	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)

College Village Apartment Style Housing	Fire Alarm Type	Audible/ Visual Alarm	Heat/Smoke Detection HW— Hard Wired B— Battery Operated	Manual Fire Alarm (Pull Stations)	Sprinkler System	Cooking Hoods	Fire Extinguisher Provided
<b>197 West Lorain Apt. 1, 2E and 2W</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-6	No	No	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>35 Willard Court Units 1, 3, 5, 7</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-6	No	No	1 in each (Kitchen)	1 in each (Kitchen)
<b>61 Willard Court</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-5	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>108 Woodland</b>	Stand alone	Audible	HW-6	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>112 Woodland</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-6	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)
<b>176 Woodland</b>	Stand alone	Audible	B-1	No	No	1	1 (Kitchen)

## Fire Alarm Drills

Ohio Fire Administrative Code 1301:7-7-04 Emergency Planning and Preparedness requires fire drills for all occupants in college and university (residential hall) Group R-2 buildings, per Section 405. College Residence Halls fall within this requirement and they, along with College Village Housing units located at Firelands apartments, complete Emergency Evacuation Drills:

- Campus Safety Officers perform approximately two fire and evacuation drills per semester during the Fall and Spring Semesters. An additional summer drill may be performed when summer conference attendance indicates, especially where children’s camps are in residence.
- Drills are held at unexpected times and under varying conditions to simulate the unusual conditions in case of fire.
- Records are maintained of required emergency evacuation drills and are made available to the Fire Department upon their request.
- Records of fire drills include the following information:
  - Identity of the person conducting the drill
  - Date and time of the drill
  - Notification method used
  - Staff members on duty and participating in the drill
  - Number of occupants evacuated

- Special conditions simulated
- Any problems encountered
- Weather conditions when occupants were evacuated
- The time required to accomplish the evacuation
- Emergency evacuation drills are initiated by activating the fire alarm system in the building involved.
- As building occupants arrive at the assembly point, efforts are made to determine if all occupants have been successfully evacuated or accounted for.

During at least one fire alarm drill per year, the first drill is usually completed within ten days of Fall Semester start-up. An official of the Oberlin Fire Department is invited to participate in fire safety education and instruction at the scene of the fire drill evacuation.

Apartment-style College Village Housing does not fall within this requirement for Fire Alarm Drills, and the nature of the required smoke detectors for apartment-style living does not permit an unannounced fire evacuation drill. Instead, students are given information about fire safety and building evacuation once a year, during the Fall Semester, to raise their awareness of fire safety evacuation practices.

Fire evacuation drills are completed two times per year in Firelands Housing and 137 Elm Street and twice a year in Union Street Housing units.

## **Oberlin College Smoking Policy**

The General Faculty voted to adopt the following policy regarding a campus-wide smoking ban in the fall of 1993:

Oberlin College has enacted a policy to limit smoking on campus by its faculty, staff, students, and visitors to outdoor areas away from building entrances and exits. Smoking is banned at all times in all campus buildings, including libraries, offices, residence halls, cooperative housing units, and designated village housing units, dining rooms, laboratories, classrooms, lounges, etc. Smoking is banned at all times in all campus buildings and college-owned vehicles. Violators may be reported to building representatives or to the office of Campus Safety. Each community member is responsible for understanding the smoking policy and is encouraged to educate their peers.

Smokers must stand far enough away from entrances, exits, and intake vents so people do not have to pass through the smoke to enter or leave or smell smoke from vents while within the building. Employees and visitors must smoke at least 30 feet away from doors and vents. (Enacted in the Department of Human Resources 11/01/93; Revised 06/20/07, 09/04/08.) In 2011 the Mudd Library building began applying fines to those smokers identified as closer to the building entrances than allowed. In 2013-2014 Electronic cigarettes were added to the ban of smoking within Oberlin College buildings.

On July 01, 2016, Oberlin College instituted a smoke-free campus that covered the entire Oberlin College campus except for Tappan Square. This area will remain permissible for smoking. It was reviewed in the spring of 2019, and smoking will still be permitted in Tappan Square. The college provided signs, tabletops, announcements, and mailings to ensure that all members of the Oberlin community and its visitors were aware of the smoke-free campus.



Photo by © Bob Handelman

## Residential Hall Fire Safety Policies and Rules

In addition to the College Smoking Policy, Student Conduct Resources and Campus Policies are made available to first-year students at the beginning of the Fall semester. These policies can be found on the college website a <https://www.oberlin.edu/dean-of-students/student-conduct/resources>. Additional information regarding fire safety and items not permitted in college housing follow.

**Dangerous Weapons, Fireworks, or Explosives.** Because of the danger posed to the college community, possession of dangerous weapons, fireworks, or explosives on college property is expressly forbidden. Definition of these items includes, but is not limited to, the following: firearms (to include BB guns and all other types of air or spring-powered weapons), knives, firecrackers or sparklers, gunpowder, dangerous instruments (including lock-picking devices), and unstable and hazardous chemicals, except for those stored and used in the appropriate laboratory facilities.

**Fire Escapes.** The fire escapes on any college building are for emergency purposes only. Any non-emergency use is expressly forbidden and will be considered an act of trespass.

## Fire Safety Policy for Village Housing

All on-campus residents must abide by state, local, and college regulations regarding fire safety. Failure to comply with these regulations jeopardizes the safety of others and may result in fines, judicial action, and/or eviction.

- Residents may not limit access to or block fire escapes, room windows, and doors, or other exits with furniture or other obstacles/objects.
- Excessive wall coverings to include posters, tapestries, flags, and pictures are not permitted. (No more than 20% of any wall surface may be covered).
- Basement and attic access is prohibited, regardless of whether the college has locked off the spaces.
- The ovens and stovetops must be kept clean of grease build-up.
- Smoke detectors are located in each apartment and/or house. Smoke detectors are never to be tampered with or covered.)
- Porches and yards, especially in the front of the house/apartment, must remain free of trash, interior furnishings, and generalized clutter.

Please see the Student Conduct Resources and Campus Policies that can be found at <https://www.oberlin.edu/dean-of-students/student-conduct/resources>. The Village Housing Handbook may be found at <https://www.oberlin.edu/housing/options/houses-and-apartments>.

**Residential Education Life Safety Policy.** Residents agree to abide by state, local, and college regulations regarding fire, safety, and sanitation as stated within the below Regulations. Failure to comply with these regulations jeopardizes the safety of self and others and may result in judicial action and/or fines.

- **Equipment.** Tampering with, misuse of, or vandalism of life-safety equipment in any college building is a violation of state law. Equipment includes but is not limited to fire extinguishers, heat sensors, pull station boxes, fire doors, exit signs, smoke detectors, door closers, and fire hoses. Causing a false fire alarm to sound may result in disciplinary action. Evacuation from the building by all residents is required when the fire alarm sounds. The fire escapes on any college building are for emergency purposes only. Any non-emergency use is expressly forbidden and will be considered an act of trespass. Tampering with Life Safety Equipment is addressed within the college with fines up to and including \$300.00 and probation through Judicial Sanction, plus the cost of repair or replacement. These fines, costs, and any judicial sanctions will be in addition to any criminal or civil application of penalties.
- **Egress from rooms.** Fire escapes, room windows, and other means of egress may not be blocked by furniture or other obstacles. Items may not block or limit access to the door, window or fire escape of any building.
- **Door closures/smoke detectors/evacuation signs.** Removing, covering, or tampering with automatic door closers, smoke detectors, and/or evacuation signs is prohibited.
- **Housekeeping.** Excessive accumulation of paper and/or clothing on the floor(s) may constitute a fire hazard and/or pest concern. If the state of a student's room is determined to be a hazard or concerning, they will be given a notice to correct the situation. Failure to do so within 24 hours may result in judicial action.

- Prohibited and Regulated Items:

- **Electrical appliances.** Air conditioners (unless provided by the college) and cooking appliances, including microwave ovens, immersion heaters, popcorn poppers, hot plates, and water heaters are prohibited from use in students' residence hall rooms. Electrical appliances permitted in all college housing include TVs, radios, stereos, telephones, fans, personal computers, hairdryers, curling and clothing irons, coffee makers/pots with automatic shutoff features.
- **Wall Hangings.** Excessive wall coverings are prohibited; no more than 20% of the wall surface may be covered. Canopy arrangements and hangings from the ceiling are prohibited.
- **Refrigerators.** Only one refrigerator per room is allowed in college housing. Divided doubles are considered one room. The capacity of refrigerators may not exceed five cubic feet except for refrigerators provided by the college in Village Housing.
- **Grounded extension cords.** Extension cords must be grounded and should be protected with fuse devices (surge protectors) throughout college housing.
- **Combustible materials.** The presence of combustible materials, including but not limited to gasoline, kerosene, paints, and thinners, or of poisonous or hazardous chemicals, or fireworks or explosives, is prohibited throughout college housing.
- **Electric blankets.** Electric mattress pad covers and electric blankets are prohibited in college housing.
- **High-wattage lamps.** The use of halogen lamps or light bulbs of higher wattage than the specified rating in the light fixture is prohibited throughout college housing.
- **Portable heaters.** Use of electric heaters (unless provided by the college), kerosene, or other types of portable space heaters are prohibited in college housing.
- **Non-flammable waste containers.** Only flame-retardant wastebaskets are permitted in college housing.
- **Furnishings.** Water beds and other pieces of water-filled furniture are not permitted in college housing. In addition, wooden structures, including lofts and room dividers, are prohibited. Curtains, blinds, and/or window treatments other than those provided by the college are prohibited.
- **Bicycles.** Bicycles may be stored in individual student rooms in college housing if they do not block egress. Motorized bicycles or motorcycles may not be stored in any facility. Motorcycles and motorized bicycles found in college housing or other facilities will be removed at the owner's expense.
- **Decorations.** The presence of burned candles, incense, or anything with an open flame, even for religious purposes, is not allowed in college housing. In addition, live or cut trees, live wreaths, and/or artificial trees over four feet tall are prohibited in college housing.

Housing and Dining Regulation violations are heard by the Residential Education Deans and Area Coordinators. Penalties for violations may be educational, can include fines up to \$300 and probation, plus repair or replacement costs (for tampering with life safety equipment, i.e., fire extinguishers, smoke

detectors, etc.) and can result in dismissal from college housing in cases of cumulative disciplinary history or damage to college housing, property, and in response to facility emergencies resulting from fire, water, or weather damage. Students may be required to vacate college housing until a hearing on the matter is held according to Student Conduct Resources and Campus Policies. In 2014, the City of Oberlin began enforcing fines in City Ordinance for repeat responses to nuisance fire alarms. Consequently, the judicial process for causes of fire alarms in residence halls are reviewed by a judicial coordinator who meets with students identified as possibly causing nuisance fire alarms for consideration of educational approaches and fines related to their activity which caused an alarm

## Fire Evacuation Procedures

Residents should be familiar with fire evacuation plans posted on the inside of their residence hall door and familiarize themselves with two evacuation routes from their rooms and common spaces within their residence halls. General recommendations for responding to a fire emergency include:

- Activate the nearest fire alarm pull station if the fire alarm is not already sounding.
- Call Emergency 911, then Campus Safety at (440) 775-8911 or Ext 58911.
- Notify occupants and help those needing assistance in the immediate area.
- Confine the fire by closing doors as you exit.
- Evacuate the building at the nearest exit and account for others you know who are present.
- Do not re-enter the building until authorized to do so by emergency personnel.

When a resident hears the building's fire alarm, they are expected to:

- Immediately exit the building, closing the room door. Evacuation is mandatory.
- Use stairs; do not use elevators
- Take personal belongings (ID, keys, purse, and wallet) and dress appropriately for the weather.
- If the door handle is warm to touch, or there is smoke in the hallway, stay in the room with the door closed, call 911, and attract attention at a window.
- If smoke is present an alternative is to crawl along the floor or stairs where the air is fresher.
- Move all personnel to a safe area, away from the building in danger, and report what you know about the presence of others still in the building.

Students who live in Village Housing units with stand-alone fire alarm systems (systems that do not automatically notify a monitoring agency to report a fire) should report any fire incident by phoning Emergency 911. Notify Campus Safety of the incident at 440-775-8911 when it is safe to do so.

- Know in advance at least two avenues of exit from your room.
- Notify other occupants there is a fire as you exit.
- Confine the fire by closing doors as you exit.
- Evacuate the building at the nearest exit and account for others you know who are present.
- Do not re-enter the building until authorized to do so by emergency personnel.

## Fire Safety Education

Fire safety evacuation procedures are presented during the first fire evacuation drill of the academic year, presented during the first ten days of class by Campus Safety Supervisors and officers performing the fire drill. Information is also distributed in passive education through instructions for evacuation on the interior of Residential Hall room doors, in emergency procedures distributed in the Student Conduct Resources and Campus Policies, in the College Village and Off Campus Housing handbooks, through a pamphlet distributed to Commencement and Conference residents, and through literature distributed during orientation and other select times deemed appropriate. Residential Education in-hall programming includes presentations by Oberlin Fire Department, when requested by the hall, and educational programs targeting life skills such as cooking safety.

Residential Education and other student employers, such as the Student Union Office, invite presentations by the Oberlin Fire Department in fire safety, evacuation procedures, and use of fire extinguishers during their annual training preceding Fall Semester. The Environmental Health and Safety Manager sponsors select training for Facilities Operations staff. The fire alarm contractor (Simplex-Grinnell-Tyco) presents training and information relating to the operation and maintenance of the fire alarm systems on campus to Campus Safety staff and to college electricians.

Residential Education staff present materials in all residential halls outlining safe practices and prohibited items. Through Life Safety Inspections, the staff educate community members in responsible practices relating to materials and items that contribute to safe living. The information is presented at hall meetings through Area Coordinators (AC's) and Residential Assistants (RA's), posting prior to inspections, through copies specific to practices found in rooms during inspections, and follow-up to inspections for corrections. Judicial review and sanctions for fire safety violations are based on education in fire safety practices and utilize FEMA fire safety film and assignment of written research papers as well as monetary fines.

Students who apply to live in College Village Housing or ask to be released off-campus, attend a seminar or orientation session where pertinent information on fire safety (how fire alarm devices operate and fire evacuations for Village Housing; general fire safety information for off-campus apartment searches) is given.

Any member of the Oberlin College community may request fire safety information pamphlets and programming by contacting any Campus Safety Officer or through the Campus Safety Office.

The Oberlin City Fire Department website <<http://www.oberlin-fire.com>> offers educational information, including Residential Hall Fire Safety information. The Oberlin Fire Department, located at 430 South Main Street, may be contacted during administrative hours, Monday through Friday, at 440-774-3211 for information on fire safety, emergency preparedness, and permissions.

## Oberlin College Annual Fire Safety Report

Oberlin College maintains on-campus student housing and collects fire statistics, published in this 2025 Oberlin College Annual Fire Safety Report. The statistics published in this report are for the calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

For purposes of fire safety reporting, a fire is “Any instance of open flame or other burning in a place not intended to contain the burning or in an uncontrolled manner.”

The Cause Categories fall within the following information:

- Unintentional Fire
  - Cooking
  - Heating equipment
  - Other
  - Smoking materials
  - Hazardous products
  - Open flames
  - Machinery / Industrial
  - Electrical
  - Natural
- Intentional Fire
- Undetermined Fire

## Fire Statistics for On-Campus Housing Facilities

Name of Facility	2022			2023			2024		
	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	Fires	Injuries	Deaths
Allencroft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia House (Quadrangle)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Bailey House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baldwin Cottage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnard House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barrows Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burton Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dascomb Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairchild House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firelands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harkness House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harvey House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kade House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kahn Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keep Cottage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Langston Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lord- Saunders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noah Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Old Barrows	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Price House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Talcott Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zechiel House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Village Housing

Name of Facility	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	Fires	Injuries	Deaths
64 East College # 1, 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
108 East College #1, 2, 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
120 East College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 East Lorain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 East Lorain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 East Lorain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61 East Lorain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
63 East Lorain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37 Elmwood Place	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
68 Elmwood Place	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
74 Elmwood Place	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 Elmwood Place #1, 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
83 Elmwood Place	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
84 Elmwood Place	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
137 Elm 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
148/150 Elm Units A, B, C, D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
268 Goldsmith Lane A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
270 Goldsmith Lane A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
272 Goldsmith Lane A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
276 Goldsmith Lane A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
284 Goldsmith Lane A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
290 Goldsmith Lane A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 North Cedar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Village Housing... *chart continued.*

Name of Facility	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	Fires	Injuries	Deaths
39 North Cedar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 North Cedar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
140 North Main	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
148 North Main	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
168 North Main #1 ,2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 North Pleasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 North Pleasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36 North Pleasant Units 2, 4, 6, 8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40 North Pleasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41 North Pleasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
62 North Pleasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
66 North Pleasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
70 North Pleasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
76 North Pleasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
195 North Professor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
201 North Professor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
258 North Professor*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
270 North Professor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78 South Professor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
96 Union A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
102 Union A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
110 Union A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Name of Facility	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	Fires	Injuries	Deaths	Fires	Injuries	Deaths
118 Union A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
126 Union A, B, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
129 West College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
135 West College Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
143 West College #1, 2E, 2W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
149 West College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
190 West College # 1, 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
152 West Lorain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
153 West Lorain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
158 West Lorain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
159 West Lorain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
197 West Lorain*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 Willard Court Units 1, 3, 5, 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61 Willard Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
108 Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
112 Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
176 Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

## Fires – On-campus Student Housing Facilities

Below is the required data for each fire in an On-campus Student Housing Facility:

Report #24-0618 10/10/2024 at 3:07pm Asia House flash fire in oven in kitchen.  
Student burned on neck, face, and arm. Transported to hospital via ambulance.

## Oberlin College Residential Hall Fire Log

The Campus Safety Office maintains a Fire Log for Residential Housing Fires, recording the date of the report, the nature of the fire, the date and time of day the fire occurred, and the general location of the fire. The log is available for review at the Campus Safety office, 140 West College, Suite C, from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The information in the fire log covers the most recent sixty days of residential fire reports and fulfills the public fire log requirement of the HEOA.

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