

Actions and Sanctions for Violations of Skidmore College's Fire Safety Policy

Range of Possible Actions and Sanctions

Subject to Change

All residents are responsible for adhering to the Skidmore College Fire Safety Policy and New York State law. Students are expected to follow the policy, not be in possession of prohibited items, and be aware of the possible sanctions for violations. In addition to sanctions imposed by the College, violators may also be responsible for fines assigned by New York State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control or the City of Saratoga Springs. Residents are responsible for attending and participating in a Safety Orientation for Students (SOS) meeting during the academic year as well as all fire drills for which they are present. All residence halls and apartments are subject to periodic fire and safety inspections, and students are expected to cooperate in removing any found violations when requested by the administration. The College may require personal furniture or furnishings to be removed from any residence when it determines the situation to be a fire, safety, or health hazard. Under no circumstance should furniture restrict free and easy movement within the room, suite, hallway, or apartment areas, or block egress in any way.

Policy Items

1. Building evacuation is required when a fire alarm sounds, unless previous notice was provided by a College administrator indicating that the alarm is going to be tested and evacuation is not necessary.
2. Damage, misuse, or theft of fire alarm systems and firefighting equipment is a violation of the law and is prohibited.
3. Students are prohibited from covering or attaching anything to fire safety equipment in their residence, including sprinklers, smoke detectors, heat detectors, etc.
4. Smoking inside of all buildings and residences on campus is prohibited.
5. Food preparation is permitted in residence hall kitchenettes and apartment kitchens only. The cooking of food and the use of electrical appliances are prohibited in student rooms. (Kuerig and similar styled coffee makers are permitted for use in student rooms)
6. Wall décor in all residence hall or apartment spaces must not cover an excessive amount of each individual wall. Tapestries are prohibited. Only two strings of lighting can be connected together as one. Décor cannot attach to ceilings or connect one wall to another.

Prohibited Items

1. Firecrackers, gasoline, propane tanks (includes camping equipment), or other highly combustible items
2. Halogen lamps
3. Candles and incense (used and unused)
4. Space heaters
5. Toaster ovens, microwave ovens, heating coils, George Foreman grills, rice cookers, and other cooking/heating devices with exposed heating surface/element
6. Bed risers, cinderblocks, and lofted furniture of any kind
7. Room partitions or dividers of any kind
8. Extension cords
 - Surge protectors are acceptable but must meet the following regulations
 - Must be corded with a maximum cord length of 6 feet
 - Provide 600 or more joules of protection
 - Be UL 1449 compliant
 - Have a maximum of six outlets
 - Have an independent on/off circuit breaker

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Low Level Violations

- Connecting more than two strings of lights together in a residence hall or apartment space
- Presence of candles, incense, or ashtrays
- Presence of extension cords
- Presence of halogen lamp
- Presence of space heater
- Presence of tapestries
- Presence of wall décor that spans the entire length or height of a wall
- Prevention of egress through any door, window, or window seat area (e.g. tapestries, beads, furniture, rugs, etc. blocking access)
- Use of room partitions or dividers of any kind
- Use of electrical appliances (Toaster ovens, microwave ovens, heating coils, George Foreman grills, rice cookers, and other cooking/heating devices with exposed heating surface/element) outside of a kitchen (in an apartment) or kitchenette (in a residence hall)
- Use of bed risers, cinderblocks, or lofted furniture of any kind

1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formal Letter of warning from College Official. ▪ Removal of violation by student or College Official (if applicable)* ▪ Restitution to the College for any damages resultant from the violation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting with College Administrator ▪ Removal of violation by student or College Official (if applicable)* ▪ Restitution to the College for any damages resultant from the violation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal from Residence for remainder of current academic year ▪ Referral to Student Conduct. Sanctions may include suspension, or dismissal from college. ▪ Restitution to the College for any damages resultant from the violation.

Mid-Level Violations

- Attaching items to the sprinkler system in an apartment or residence hall room
- Covering or attaching items to fire safety equipment in an apartment or residence hall room, including but not limited to, smoke detectors and heat detectors
- Failure to evacuate when a fire alarm sounds
- Presence of firecrackers, gasoline, propane tanks, or other highly combustible items
- Presence of unattended lit candles and incense
- Smoking of any substance inside any building or residence hall on campus (includes the evidence of smoking, including but not limited to, ash and/or butts in the window)

1 st Offense	2 nd Offense
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting with College Administrator ▪ Removal of violation by student or College Official (if applicable)* ▪ Restitution to the College for any damages resultant from the violation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal from Residence for remainder of current academic year ▪ Referral to Student Conduct. Sanctions may include suspension, or dismissal from college. ▪ Restitution to the College for any damages resultant from the violation.

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High Level Violations

- Falsely reporting a fire by pulling the fire alarm or contacting emergency personnel
- Damage, misuse, or theft of fire alarm systems and firefighting equipment (i.e. unwarranted discharging of fire extinguisher)
- Intentional setting fire and/or burning any object and/or place not intended to be burnt.
- Negligent behavior resulting in a fire

1st Offense

- Removal from Residence for remainder of current academic year
- **Referral to Student Conduct.** Sanctions may include suspension, or dismissal from college.
- **Restitution to the College for any damages resultant from the violation.**

Notes

Unlisted Sanctions - Other sanctions may also be levied as a response to violations. Violations that rise to the level of criminal behavior (i.e. pulling a false alarm is a felony) are subject to be reported to the police.

Fines - Skidmore College does not impose fine as part of the Fire Safety policy. However, the City of Saratoga Springs may assign fines to the College for false (negligent) fire alarms, per City ordinance. If this occurs students may be responsible for the cost of the fine if it resulted from negligent fire safety.

Return after a housing removal - If a student returns to On-Campus Housing after being removed due violations of the Fire Safety policy any further violations of this policy will result from permanent removal from On-Campus housing for the remainder of the student's studies at Skidmore College.

Multiple Violations of differing levels - Sanctions for students found to be in violation of multiple violations of differing levels will be decided at the discretion of the Director of Residential Life.

*College Officials may include, but are not limited to, student and professional Residential Life staff members, Campus Safety, Facilities personnel, and/or Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution staff.