

**Prairie View A&M University**  
**Annual Fire Safety Report on Student Housing**  
Higher Education Campus Fire Safety Standards and Measures



**2010 Annual Fire Safety Report**

Compiled by Environmental Health & Safety

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A message from Our Directors

**Welcome from the Director of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS)** EHS provides services for students, staff, faculty and visitors that promote a healthy and safe environment for the university community. These services are designed to assist PVAMU in achieving its teaching, research, and service objectives with effective, efficient, and safe operations and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and standards.

We are aggressive in pursuing prevention and resolution of unsafe conditions for your protection. We strive to be effective advocates for the university community while being flexible to effectively respond to the changing needs of the university community.

All EHS personnel try to be a shining example of safety stewards with the highest level of expertise.

We are user friendly and customer driven so please feel free to stop by and visit or stop us when we are out around campus to ask us questions or bring your concerns to our attention.

Welcome again to PVAMU and have a wonderful and safe experience.

**Welcome from the Director of Residence Life**

This is the place for you, a place to make new and everlasting friends; grow; develop; and achieve educational goals you have always dreamed about, but never believed you could achieve.

The stresses of university life: Where am I going to live? Is there going to be parking? Will I have room for my Play Station 2 and my 15-foot celebrity poster? Is the food any good? You will not have to worry about any of these issues at PVAMU. We

hope that the only stress you'll feel will be about meeting your professors' expectations.

The Residence Life web site (<http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/933.asp>) will supply you with the answers you need and the options you want. Applying for housing is a snap, parking and shuttle bus service are available and the food is great. You will have to ask your roommates about the PS2.

You'll probably be surprised at the number and variety of housing choices. The university has four student housing communities, including apartments for upper classmen and a living and learning community just for freshmen. You can request 2 or 4 bedroom apartments (upper classmen) and the roommate(s) of your choice.

Living in PVAMU housing offers a chance to build a community, not just a place to sleep. There's always activity brewing in PVAMU residential communities and there are always roommates and neighbors to talk with, go out with or just for hanging out. Residents have the advantage of being close to their classes and all of the extracurricular action on campus.

Your fellow residents are from all sorts of places: Houston, Dallas, Detroit, Asia, Africa and California for starters. You'll find it interesting to live with people whose backgrounds are completely different from yours, but who are facing the same challenges. And it may sound cliché, but it's true: these people with whom you'll attend lectures, play volleyball, make popcorn, and proof research papers will be your friends for life.

Again, welcome and we hope you enjoy our website.

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

## **American Campus Community Community Living Creed**

Prairie View A&M University residence hall communities incorporate the following:

- **EDUCATION:** to ensure that teaching and learning take place beyond the classroom.
- **OPENNESS:** so that ideas and thoughts can be discussed freely.
- **RESPECT:** to ensure that individuality is honored so diversity can be pursued.
- **RESPONSIBILITY:** so that the individual accepts obligations to the community and is held accountable for individual actions.
- **CARING:** to ensure that the individual's well-being is supported and that community service is encouraged.
- **INVOLVEMENT:** so that all individuals have a voice in decisions concerning their community.
- **OWNERSHIP:** to ensure that all individuals care for their building facilities and adjacent property.
- **CELEBRATION:** so that Prairie View A&M University's history and culture are promoted and that residence hall and university traditions are shared.

## **ABOUT PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**

Founded in 1876, Prairie View A&M University is the second oldest public institution of higher learning in the state of Texas. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees in 50 academic majors, 37 Master's degrees and four doctoral degree programs through nine colleges and schools. A member of the Texas A&M University System, the University is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research and service.

Prairie View A&M University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as a comprehensive public institution of higher education authorized to award Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees, and is a member of the Texas A&M University System. It is a land-grant university authorized under the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890. The main campus is located in Waller County approximately 40 miles northwest of Houston and one mile north of US Highway 290 on Farm Road 1098. The College of Nursing facility is located in the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

The University offers a broad range of academic programs through the following administrative units:

- The College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
- The School of Architecture
- The College of Business
- The Roy G. Perry College of Engineering
- The College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology
- The College of Nursing
- The Graduate School
- The Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences
- Whitlowe R. Green College of Education

Though the University's service area has generally extended throughout Texas and the world, the University's target service area includes the Texas Gulf Coast Region, i.e., Waller, Harris, Montgomery, Washington, Grimes, Fort Bend, Galveston, Jefferson, Chambers, Liberty, Colorado, Wharton, Brazoria, and Austin Counties; the rapidly growing residential and commercial area known as the Northwest Houston Corridor as noted in the original Texas Plan; and urban Texas centers likely to benefit from Prairie View A&M University's specialized programs and services in juvenile justice, architecture, teacher education, social work, and the food, agricultural and natural resource sciences. Prairie View A&M University is authorized to offer a number of undergraduate and graduate degree programs at distant sites.

## **EMERGENCY AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **REPORTING EMERGENCY:**

On campus phones - Police/Fire/Medical - 4911

Non campus or cellular phones – (936) 261-4911

Non-Emergencies/General

University Police Department – (936) 261-1375

Environmental Health & Safety – (936) 261-1745 / 1746 / 1743

Web Site: <http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/547.asp>

EHS email [EHS@PVAMU.EDU](mailto:EHS@PVAMU.EDU)

### **OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

University College Community –

University College Community Maintenance – (936) 261-3070

University Village Community -

### **REPORT**

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

Example for report that is filed separately from the Annual Security Report:

This report does not include any information required to be reported under the Jean Cleary Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act Annual Report. Information regarding the Cleary report is available by contacting the University Police Department at (936) 261-1375 or on the web at <http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/567.asp>.

### **FIRE LOG INFORMATION/LOCATION**

Prairie View A&M University maintains a fire log that is available to the public. Fire log is maintained in the Environmental Health & Safety Department in the Harrington Science Building room 102. For access to it please call the Environmental Health & Safety Department at (936) 261-1745 or email us at [EHS@PVAMU.EDU](mailto:EHS@PVAMU.EDU) to schedule an appointment.

## DEFINITIONS

***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**

All student housing is located on the campus of Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, TX, and is on the PVAMU shuttle bus route. All student housing is managed by American Campus Communities, which is the nation's premier owner and manager of luxurious, academically-oriented student housing.

Phase I, II, & III – consist of 900 square foot, 4 bedroom 2 bathroom units.

Phase II - has some 630 square foot 2 bedroom 2 bathroom units.

Phase III - has some 727 square foot 2 bedroom 2 bathroom units.

Phase VI - Freshman housing is comprised of 251 square feet double bedroom units.

Below is a summary of fire protection features provided in each of our on campus residential facilities.

### **On-Campus Student Housing Facilities - Fire Safety Systems**

<b>Housing Area</b>	<b>Fire Detection System Information</b>	<b>Fire Sprinkler System Information</b>	<b>Other information</b>
University Village Phase I			
University Village Phase II			
University Village Phase III			
University College Phase IV (14 buildings)	Hard Wired Smoke detectors in every room	Fully Sprinkled Buildings, Sprinkler head in every room	Fire Alarms in every room



# CAMPUS MAP



## CAMPUS MAP

- ADMINISTRATION
  - ⓐ Administration Building
  - ⓑ Evans Hall
  - ⓒ Thomas E. Gray Information Center
  - ⓓ W. A. Tempton Memorial Student Center
- ACADEMIC
  - ANDR ⓐ Anderson Hall
  - ARCH ⓐ N. A. Kennedy Architecture Building
  - BNKS ⓐ W. R. Banks Building
  - BURL ⓐ Burleson Ware Hall
  - COOP ⓐ Carden-Waller Cooperative Extension Building
  - DELC ⓐ Wilhelmina R. F. Delco Building
  - ESBY ⓐ E. B. Evans Building
  - GLC/WLS ⓐ C. L. Wilson/Gichrist Engineering Building
  - GREA ⓐ Austin Greax Chemical Engineering Building
  - HILL ⓐ Hillard Hall Communication Building
  - HMEC ⓐ Home Economics Building
  - HOBT ⓐ Hobart Taylor Hall
  - HSCI ⓐ Harrington Science Building
  - JJPY ⓐ Juvenile Justice & Psychology Building
  - LBRY ⓐ John B. Coleman Library
  - LOEV ⓐ L. O. Evans Hall
  - NEBR ⓐ Electrical Engineering Building
  - NROTC ⓐ D. L. Brewer Naval ROTC Building
  - NSCI ⓐ E. E. O'Banion Science Building
  - POIN ⓐ A. N. Poindester Veterinary Clinic
  - SBCO ⓐ S. R. Collins Engineering Building
  - WOOL ⓐ G. R. Woolfolk Political Science Building
  - ⓐ Observatory
- CAMPUS LIFE
  - ⓐ Community Center
  - ⓑ Johnson Philip All Faith Chapel
  - ⓒ Fernal Hall (Laundromat)
  - ⓓ Fire Station
  - ⓔ Jones Elementary
  - ⓕ Owens Franklin Health Center
  - ⓖ Police Station/Central Receiving
  - ⓗ Post Office
  - ⓓ Student Park and Pavilion
- HOUSING
  - ⓐ University College
  - ⓑ University Village Phase 1 & 2
  - ⓒ University Village North Phase 3
- ATHLETICS
  - ⓐ Athletics Administration Building
  - ⓑ Blackshear Stadium
  - ⓒ Soccer Field
  - ⓓ Baseball Field
  - ⓔ Leroy G. Moore Jr. Intramural Gymnasium
  - ⓕ Swimming Pool
  - ⓖ Tennis Courts
  - ⓗ Outdoor Basketball Court
  - ⓓ William J. Nickle Field House (Baby Dome)
- FARM
  - ⓐ Farm Manager Office
  - ⓑ Governor Bill & Vera Daniels Farm and Ranch
  - ⓒ International Goat Research Building
  - ⓓ Jessie & Mary Gibbs Jones Agriculture Research Building
  - ⓕ Poultry Complex
  - ⓖ Swine Complex
- MAINTENANCE
  - ⓐ Fry-Thomas Power Plant
  - ⓑ Physical Plant
  - ⓒ Transportation Building
  - ⓓ Waste Water Plant



# **FIRE SAFETY POLICIES**

## ***Residence Halls***

Smoking – All University Facilities are smoke free

Candles – Candles are prohibited in all campus facilities

### **Residence Hall Fire Safety**

**Use of Candles and Other Open Flames:** The majority of fires that occur in residence halls across the Nation are a result of burning candles. All open flame devices are prohibited in student rooms, including burning incense. If candles are found in your room, they will be confiscated. Use of candles, incense, etc., may result in a student's referral to the Office of Student Affairs, and may result in one's relocation or removal from University housing.

**Cooking appliances:** Used inappropriately, all cooking devices can be extremely hazardous. According to the Terms and Conditions of Student Housing, any misuse of cooking appliances or use of non-approved devices may result in student's referral to the Student Affairs for disciplinary actions.

**Electrical Overloads/ Extension Cords:** Use of extension cords as permanent power supply (over 8 hours) is prohibited, instead, invest in a power strip. To ensure reasonable safety standards, minimum power strip requirements include that they be 3-prong grounded, have an auto-reset breaker in the strip, be UL-listed, and be made of 12-gauge or larger wire. Do not overload power strips or outlets by plugging one power strip into another, and do not route cords under doors, carpets, or furniture that will pinch the wire.

**Smoke Detectors:** Never cover, attempt to dismantle, or otherwise tamper with the smoke detectors in your room or hallways. If you see a problem with any smoke detector immediately report it to the Residence Hall Maintenance personnel. Any malfunctioning or broken smoke detectors will be replaced immediately. Interference with or misuse of fire alarms or other safety/security equipment or programs is a violation of the University's Code of Student Conduct and may result in a student's relocation or removal from University housing.

**Smoking:** Smoking in bed is extremely dangerous and is one of the primary causes of fires in living areas. Careless disposal of matches and cigarette butts is also a common cause of fires. Smoking is prohibited in all residential facilities, and University Buildings throughout PVAMU.

**Halogen Lamps:** Due to high temperatures emitted from halogen lamps, they are prohibited in the residence halls. Many fires have been caused by materials coming in contact with halogen bulbs or other parts of the lamp.

**Decorations:** Flammable items such as tapestries, fishnets, and sheets may not be hung on the ceiling, walls, or lighting fixtures.

**Flammable Liquids/Materials:** Solvents like gasoline, ether, paint, etc., are not permitted in student rooms or storage areas. In addition, charcoal, gas, butane, and propane grills/burners are prohibited.

**Sprinkler Systems:** Sprinkler systems help contain and extinguish fires in buildings. The sprinkler heads are delicate pieces of equipment and will discharge water if damaged. Residents are required to maintain an 18-inch clearance around sprinkler heads. Never play sports in the hall or hang items from sprinkler heads as they are easily damaged and may activate. One sprinkler head will discharge 15-40 gallons of water per minute, can cost several hundred dollars to replace, and can do thousands of dollars of damage to personal property. Misuse/tampering with a sprinkler head is a violation of the University's Code of Student Conduct and may result in a student's relocation or removal from University housing

## **FIRE DRILL AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

### **Fire Drills**

Done in each residence each semester. Results and reports submitted to PVAMU Residence Hall Director/Managers.

All students are to evacuate and meet up with their Residence Advisors away from building but within view if needed by response personal for information.

## **FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS**

Every community poses its own fire risks. In order to assess the risks at each community, the General Manager and Maintenance Supervisor should complete an annual walk-through with fire department personnel to inspect fire and alarm systems and to identify potential fire hazards in need of correction. This is an excellent time to build a good relationship with the local fire department so they are familiar with the site in the event of an emergency, and also to open doors for building a good programming relationship.

Listed below are several safety measures that should be implemented at the site level. Although they are divided into areas by staff position, keep in mind that the General Manager and/or Maintenance Supervisor may delegate responsibilities as they deem necessary.

### **All Staff**

- ⇒ Keep office and storage areas clear of large quantities of paper, trash, or other combustible materials. Such conditions in resident units should be reported to the General Manager as soon as possible.
- ⇒ Keep halls and doorways clear of obstructions.

- ⇒ Do not tamper with or attach anything to the fire system or related hardware.
- ⇒ Keep electrical appliances and extension cords in good repair. Report any deficiencies to the maintenance department or management immediately.
- ⇒ Keep heating appliances away from walls and combustible materials.
- ⇒ Make a note of extinguisher locations nearest your work area. If you ever notice that an extinguisher is missing or under-charged, report it to the Maintenance Supervisor immediately.

To use an extinguisher:

- \* Remove pin from handle.
- \* Stand back approximately eight feet.
- \* Aim at the base of the fire and squeeze the handle.
- \* Move spray from side to side to cover the source of the flames.

## **FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION PROGRAM**

Prairie View A&M University conducts several levels of fire and life safety inspections in all of our residence facilities. Inspections are done by the American Campus Community staff on a routine or as needed basis along with maintenance personnel during repair operations. PVAMU EHS personnel perform inspections in conjunction with fire drills and as requested by students or ACC personnel.

In addition, the University Physical Plant conducts inspections, testing, and maintenance of fire safety equipment in compliance with the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association.

### ***Residence Halls***

**Monthly Inspections** – Each month, ACC staff conduct egress area fire safety inspections. These areas include corridors, stairways, and exit paths.

**Pre-Occupancy Inspections** – Prior to occupancy of residence halls each fall, spring and summer semester, a more in-depth inspection is conducted. These inspections include all common areas, mechanical, electrical, and custodial areas within each building as well as exit paths outside of the facilities.

**Annual Inspections** – Once each calendar year, a complete fire and life safety inspection is conducted by American Campus Community in conjunction with Environmental Health and Safety. The intent of these inspections is to increase the level of safety and safety awareness for all occupants of the residence halls. These inspections include residence hall rooms and staff offices as well as mechanical and common areas. Inspections begin around the third week of the fall semester and will continue until all residence halls have been inspected. Inspections will be conducted in the presence of a residence hall staff member. Safety practices in general and the Fire Life safety

rules found in the rules section will be the primary focus of the inspection. These inspections will look for such items as:

- Electrical: Use of extension cords, cover plate missing/damaged, electrical wiring frayed/damaged/crimped, multi adapter without breaker in use, prohibited/ unapproved appliances
- Fire Alarm Equipment: smoke detector obstructed (min. 24" clearance), smoke detector damaged
- Lofts: being less than 30" from the ceiling, being of poor construction and/or being placed in an unsafe/unapproved location
- Ignition Sources/Combustible Products: candles/incense being present in the room, flammable liquids in the room, combustible materials near electrical source, and excessive fire load in the room
- Emergency Planning: absence of the evacuation plan on the back of the room door, window/door obstructed
- Miscellaneous: poor housekeeping, floor/wall/ceiling penetrations, and the door closure missing/damaged

## **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.

Jay Abbt  
Director, Environmental Health & Safety  
(936) 261-1745  
[JSABBT@PVAMU.EDU](mailto:JSABBT@PVAMU.EDU)

Daron White  
Safety Associate  
Environmental Health & Safety  
(936) 261-1746  
[DAWHITE@PVAMU.EDU](mailto:DAWHITE@PVAMU.EDU)

Ester A Chalmers  
Environmental Health & Safety Officer  
(936) 261-1743  
[EACHALMERS@PVAMU.EDU](mailto:EACHALMERS@PVAMU.EDU)

