

Important Fire Sprinkler Information for Ithaca College Students

Ithaca College is committed to providing a safe living environment for its students. We continue to retrofit our residence halls with fire sprinklers. The majority of our residence halls are now fully equipped with sprinkler systems.

Because sprinklers are so prevalent on-campus, this flier is intended to provide you with important information about these life-saving devices.

Please take a moment to read this important information about fire sprinklers to ensure your safety and prevent accidental sprinkler activations:

Facts

- Besides prevention, there is no more effective way than sprinklers to avoid the property loss, injuries, and fatalities that result from fires.
- Fire sprinklers are individually heat-activated devices. When heated to its operating point (approximately 165°F), a liquid-filled glass bulb will shatter to open a single sprinkler head, releasing water directly over the source of the heat.
- Only the sprinkler head(s) in the area of the fire will discharge water, not the entire system.
- Once activated, a sprinkler sprays about 20-25 gallons of water *per minute* in a uniform pattern throughout the room.
- One or two sprinkler heads are enough to protect an entire residence hall room.
- Ithaca College's sprinkler systems are regularly inspected, tested, and maintained by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S).

Prevent False Sprinkler Activations!

- ✓ **The glass bulbs inside each sprinkler head are *easily broken*.** Therefore, fire sprinklers should never be used to hang clothing, decorations, etc.
- ✓ Frisbees, footballs, and other objects that could cause a sprinkler head to activate when hit by them should *never* be thrown in the vicinity of fire sprinklers.

- ✓ Nothing must be within 18 inches of the sprinkler heads. This clearance will help ensure proper spray projection.
- ✓ A significant amount of *water damage* to your room, personal property, as well as the property of your neighbors, may result from a single false sprinkler activation. Between 100-200 gallons of water can be discharged before the system is shut off.
 - The water in sprinkler pipes is often dark and has a foul odor when first released from the system.
- ✓ You are *personally liable* for any expenses associated with the damage and clean up from a sprinkler activation caused by your negligence.
- ✓ In addition to violating the Ithaca College Student Conduct Code, tampering with any life safety device such as a sprinkler head, smoke detector, heat detector, or fire extinguisher is a violation of New York State building codes.
 - At a minimum, students found to have intentionally tampered with a fire sprinkler will face judicial charges.

A Final Note

Studies have shown that 95-99 percent of all fires are extinguished or controlled by sprinkler systems in structures equipped with them.

The success rate of sprinklers preventing fire-related fatalities is near 100 percent.

Please do your part to make sure this invaluable life-saving equipment is properly maintained and able to do its job by observing the basic rules outlined on this page.

Following these guidelines could save your life or another's. Ignoring them is dangerous and costly!

For More Information

- Environmental Health and Safety: 274-3333
- Residential Life: 274-3313