

## INFORMATION TO STUDENTS REGARDING FIRE/SAFETY ISSUES

### *Parking Regulations in regards to fire lanes:*

The SJU Fire Department needs your help to keep fire lane areas clear. It is important to keep these areas clear in case of a fire-related and/or medical emergency where emergency vehicles need to gain access to the residential areas.

As such, please note the following:

- You must have specific permission from Life Safety Services to use the fire lanes.
- Only students with **documented physical problems** may have short term use of the fire lanes.
- The penalties for parking in the fire lanes at St. John's is either a fine or your vehicle may be towed off the campus property.

Also note:

- Fire lane gates do sometimes get opened; this does not mean that you may use the fire lane for personal vehicles or loading/unloading vehicles.
- That parking in a fire lane with your flashers on does not give you the right to park there.

### *Lofts:*

Effective Fall 2007, SJU students will no longer be allowed to construct lofts in any SJU residential area. The only lofts that will be allowed in the Residence Halls are the one's rented via Campus Lofts Inc. **Students may not utilize cinderblocks or other unapproved means of stacking to raise beds.**

### *Holiday Decorations:*

Per the *J-Book* holiday decorations are allowed in the residence hallways in the dorms on campus. The requirements for decorations are as follows:

1. No paper/flammable decorations allowed in the hallways.
2. Any decorations hung in the hallways need to be at least 7' from the floor.
3. No electrical cords of any kind can be run over/under dorm or any other doors.
4. Cords used for lights must be taped to walls and or floors – not hanging loose.
5. Any decorations found to be in violation of the above rules will be removed at once and be given to either the RA or FR on that floor.

### *Grills on campus:*

It is the policy of St. John's University that there can be no storage of barbecue grills on decks/balconies of buildings on campus. This includes the charcoal/lighter fluid/spare

propane tanks that are accompanied with some of these grills. In addition, NO grills of any kind are allowed in campus dorms.

1. First offense: Occupants will be warned and asked to remove materials.
2. Second offense: Occupants will be fined \$300 and asked to remove materials.
3. Third offense: Occupants will be fined another \$300 and the materials will be confiscated.

Also, please note:

- It will be the responsibility of the student to contact Life Safety at the end of the year to coordinate with them a time that the grill can be claimed.
- Fines will be split between all the occupants of that building, unless the guilty party comes forth and admits ownership to the Fire Chief in person.
- There is also no storage of lighter fluid, charcoal or LP tanks in any dorms/rooms on campus. All of those supplies need to be stored outside the buildings and away from the buildings.

#### **False fire alarms due to cooking:**

The fire department responds to numerous false alarms that are caused by cooking in residential areas. In our attempts to reduce the number of false calls (and the related costs to the University), the fire department has developed the following policy.

- Each residence will be allowed to have three cooking-related false alarms during the academic year.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> false alarm (and every false alarm thereafter) will result in every resident in that particular building/floor will be charged a \$50 fine.

If students use the vent fans over the stoves, crack open their windows (if there are any) and keep the burners and oven clean, the alarm is less likely to be set off by cooking. It is also the responsibility of the students to keep their stoves and ovens clean.

#### **Electrical cords/wiring:**

Extension cords are only allowed in dorms if they have a built in surge protector or fuse in them (they will have a UL sticker on the device). Extension cords not meeting this requirement will result in a \$50 fine being levied and the cord will be confiscated. They can be picked up at the end of the school year from the Fire Station.

Also, please note the following:

- Surge Protectors should be used instead of regular extension cords.
- One may not hook one surge protector into another to gain more distance.
- No multiple electrical adapters are allowed unless they have surge protection built into them and have a UL sticker on the device.

- Reducer plugs are also not allowed since it eliminates the built in ground.

***Safety Violations / Tampering with Safety-Related Equipment:***

The St. John's University Fire Department want the students of Saint John's University to be as safe as possible at all times. Therefore, we are concerned when fire extinguishers are found expelled without there being a fire. We are also concerned when fire alarms/pull boxes are activated without due cause and the smoke detectors are disabled or get removed from the walls of the dorms/buildings.

**An estimated 1,700 Fires a year occur in dormitories and off campus student housing.**

**The damage estimates from these fires are estimated at \$2.8 Million dollars.**

Therefore, the SJU Fire Department has assigned fines to those types of safety-policy related violations.

**1. Tampering with fire alarm systems...\$500**

- Tampering with pull boxes/pulling fire alarms
- Disconnecting/covering up smoke detectors or pulling batteries out of them
- Tampering with fire department/standpipe connections
- Any other mischievous actions dealing with fire systems
- Tampering with, hanging, or blocking sprinkler heads

**2. Expelling of fire extinguishers...\$300**

**3. Not leaving the building during a fire alarm...\$150**

**4. Attempting to or setting a fire...referred to Stearns Co. Sheriff Department for formal charges.** (ex. Couch Fires, Dumpster Fires, etc.)

**5. Careless activities or breaking dorm rules resulting in Fire Department Response...will be charged the cost for the Fire Department to Respond.**

**6. Possession or use of Candles or Incense...\$150**

**7. Hallway Clearance...\$100 per person on the affected floor/apartment/building.**

The hallways in the residence halls must be cleared to allow traffic to exit the building in case of a fire or any other emergency. Therefore, students moving into or out of residence halls must have their belongings removed from the hallways by then end of move-in day. If materials remain in the hallway the entire floor community will be assessed a fine until (a) the hallway is cleared or (b) the individual(s) who own the materials are identified.

**8. Fire Lane parking violations – During a non-emergency - \$50 (Cannot be appealed)**

**9. Fire Lane parking violations – During an emergency call - \$200 (Cannot be appealed)**

***Contact Information:***

If one should have any question or concerns about the policies listed about, please contact the SJU Fire Chief, Jay Bohan, at (320) 363-2742 or email [jbohan@csbsju.edu](mailto:jbohan@csbsju.edu).