

TICK TOCK...LIFE SAFETY, FACILITY DAMAGE, CAMPUS DISRUPTION

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MARCH 5-6, 2020 MPP LOSS CONTROL WORKSHOP

Campus fire safety by the numbers

- From 2011-2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 4,100 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and other related properties.
- These fires caused annual averages of 35 civilian injuries and \$14 million in direct property damage.*
 - From 2000 - present, 92 fatal fires have been documented in various campus housing-claiming a total of 132 victims**

Of the 92 documented**:

- 38 were accidental-claiming 51 victims
 - 14 were intentionally set-claiming 22 victims
- 40 of the fires the cause was undetermined or unavailable at the time of report-claiming 59 victims.

*Source: NFPA's ["Structure Fires in Dormitories, Fraternities, Sororities and Barracks" report](#)

**Source: [The Center for Campus Fire Safety](#)

***Source: [U.S. Fire Administration](#)

CAMPUS DISRUPTION

9 Fires: On Campus Segment



9 FIRES

9 Fires tells of the impact of nine campus-related fires that happened within three weeks in January and February of 2012. Through interviews with victims, families, students, fire and campus officials we learn about what happens after the headlines fade. We learn...the rest of the story.

9 Fires is being made freely available



FIRES

A Short Film

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www.mingerfoundation.org/9-fires

Planning: The Best Defense is a Good Offense

Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

(Evacuation, Life Safety, Accountability, Emergency Operations)

Policies and Procedures

(Business Continuity, Relocation of buildings/services/classes, Employee Responsibilities)

Training

(Tabletops, Classes, Conferences, Orientations, Professional Development)

Drills

(Be prudent with drills—overuse can lead to disengagement of participants and “boy who cried wolf” syndrome)

Ensure you have the right people at the table for planning, tabletops, etc.

Tabletop Example-(Scenario) Fire in Towers Dorm 12/2019



Groups Involved:

- Dept. of Residence Staff
- UNI Dept. of Public Safety
- County Sheriff's Dept.
- Other University Staff

Not-involved

- Office of Risk Management
- University Fire and Loss Control Coordinator
- Local Fire Dept.

Questions: Where did the building get evacuated to? Were collapse zones considered? Did other areas need to be evacuated? **After action review to identify gaps with the exercise?**

Hit by Fire, a Texas University Looks to Rebuild

By STACI SEMRAD MAY 8, 2008



Fire engulfed the Main Building of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio on Tuesday night, causing extensive damage. William Luther/San Antonio



William Luther/San Antonio Express-News, via Associated Press

Facility Damage

James Cook University fire forces hundreds of students to flee accommodation

Updated 4 Apr 2019, 12:43am



PHOTO: The university said 20 firefighters put out the blaze. (Supplied)



PHOTO: No one was injured in the fire. (ABC News: Travis Mead)



LIFE SAFETY

Los Angeles Times

Three Die in Dormitory Fire at Seton Hall University

By JOHN J. GOLDMAN JAN. 20, 2000 | 12 AM

TIMES STAFF WRITER

NEW YORK — A predawn blaze sent thick black smoke swirling through a dormitory at Seton Hall University on Wednesday while hundreds of students slept, killing three people and injuring 62 others on the South Orange, N.J., campus.

“There was just a lot of smoke. You couldn’t even see 10 inches in front of your face,” added Joe Lepore, who also fled the dorm.

Essex County prosecutor Donald C. Campolo said that 18 false alarms had been turned in since September. The dorm did not have a sprinkler system because the 48-year-old building was constructed before it was required, Campolo said, adding that fire hoses inside had been disconnected and might have been rotted. There were 55 fire extinguishers in the dorm building.



Entrance to the 3rd Floor

APRIL, 2000. The fire at Boland Hall killed three freshmen, and injured 58 others including 4 critically. One of the doors to the third floor still bears evidence of a student's struggle to escape the blaze.

Photo: Matt Rainey (Pulitzer Prize: After The Fire)

Some Potential Causes of Fire



Cooking



Human Factors

Intentional
Unintentional

Spontaneous
Ignition,
Weather,
Accidents,
Electronics
(Cords,
Batteries)

There goes Cheryl's She-Shed





Do you
have
these?

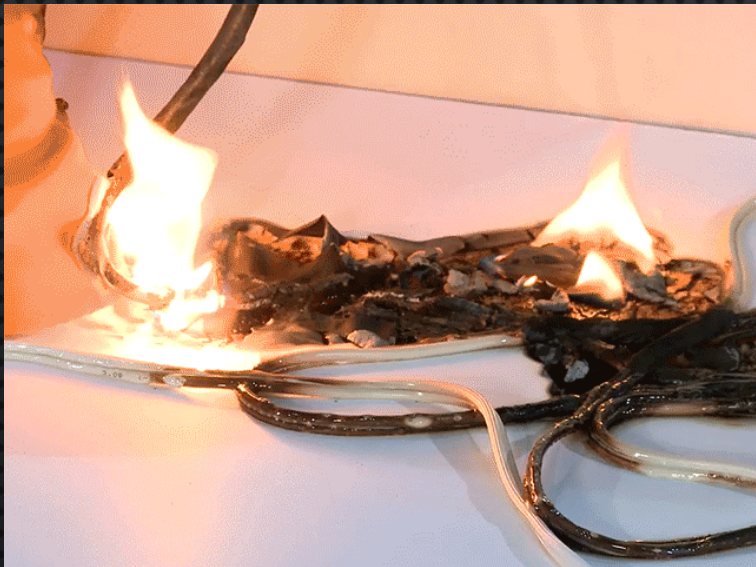


Some Potential Causes of Fire



Campus Projects

Hot Work, Construction, Remodeling

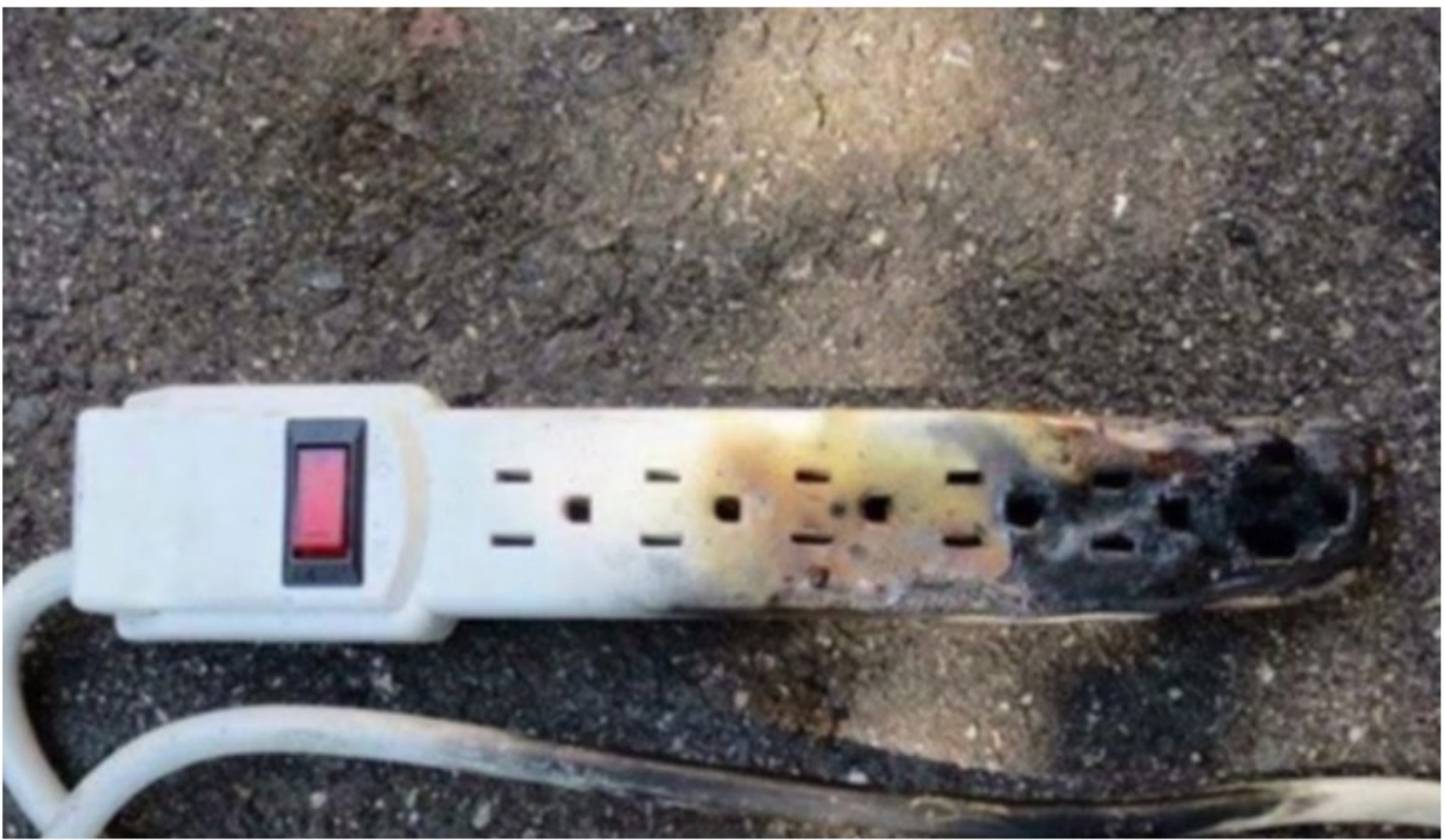


Electrical

Extension Cords, Multi-outlet
Power Strips/Surge protectors,
Space Heaters, etc.

Are power strips and surge protectors used on your campus?

Are they being used properly?

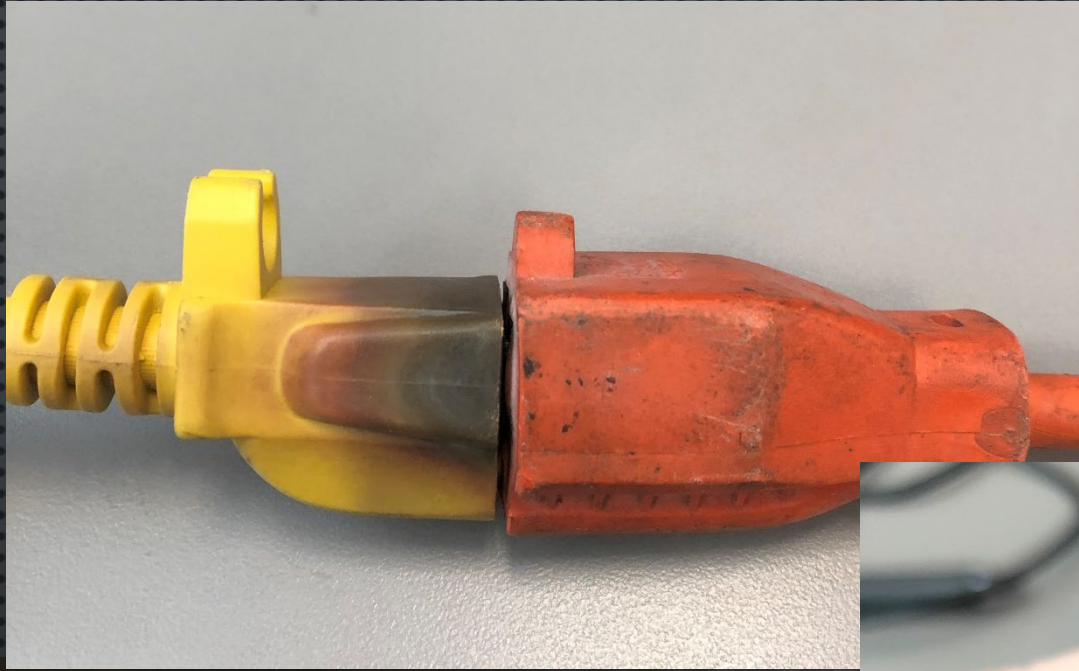


A post warning about the dangers of space heaters and power strips from Kaufman Fire Rescue Station 1 in Dec., 2017, went viral with more than 579,000 shares.

KAUFMAN FIRE RESCUE STATION 1

Are
extension
cords used
on your
campus?

Are they
being used
properly?



This type
of fan



Daycare fire that killed 5 children blamed on extension cord

Investigators searched the property and electrical items were examined at a bureau laboratory

Oct 11, 2019

Associated Press

ERIE, Pa. — Investigators are blaming an electrical extension cord for a fire that killed five small children two months ago in Pennsylvania.

The investigative team said Thursday that the deadly Aug. 11 fire at the Erie, Pennsylvania, home that included the Harris Family Daycare was an accident, caused by an electrical failure associated with the routinely used cord.

Overloaded Power Strip Sparked Fire That Killed 2 Brothers In Fitchburg

January 7, 2020 at 12:40 pm Filed Under: [Fitchburg News](#), [Franklin Wilson](#), [Gregory Wilson](#)

FITCHBURG, Mass. (AP) — A house fire in Massachusetts that took the lives of two brothers last weekend was caused by an overloaded power strip, investigators said Tuesday.

A space heater, a cellphone, a lamp, a television, and a computer monitor and processor were among the items plugged into the power strip, according to investigators.

It cannot be determined which, if any, of the appliances caused the overload or if the use of all the appliances together triggered it.

Remember, Fire Is Not All You Have To Worry About

Blodgett Street, Houston Texas

- Fire begins with one car and spreads to 4 or 5 others
- 45 apartment units damaged, 100 people affected



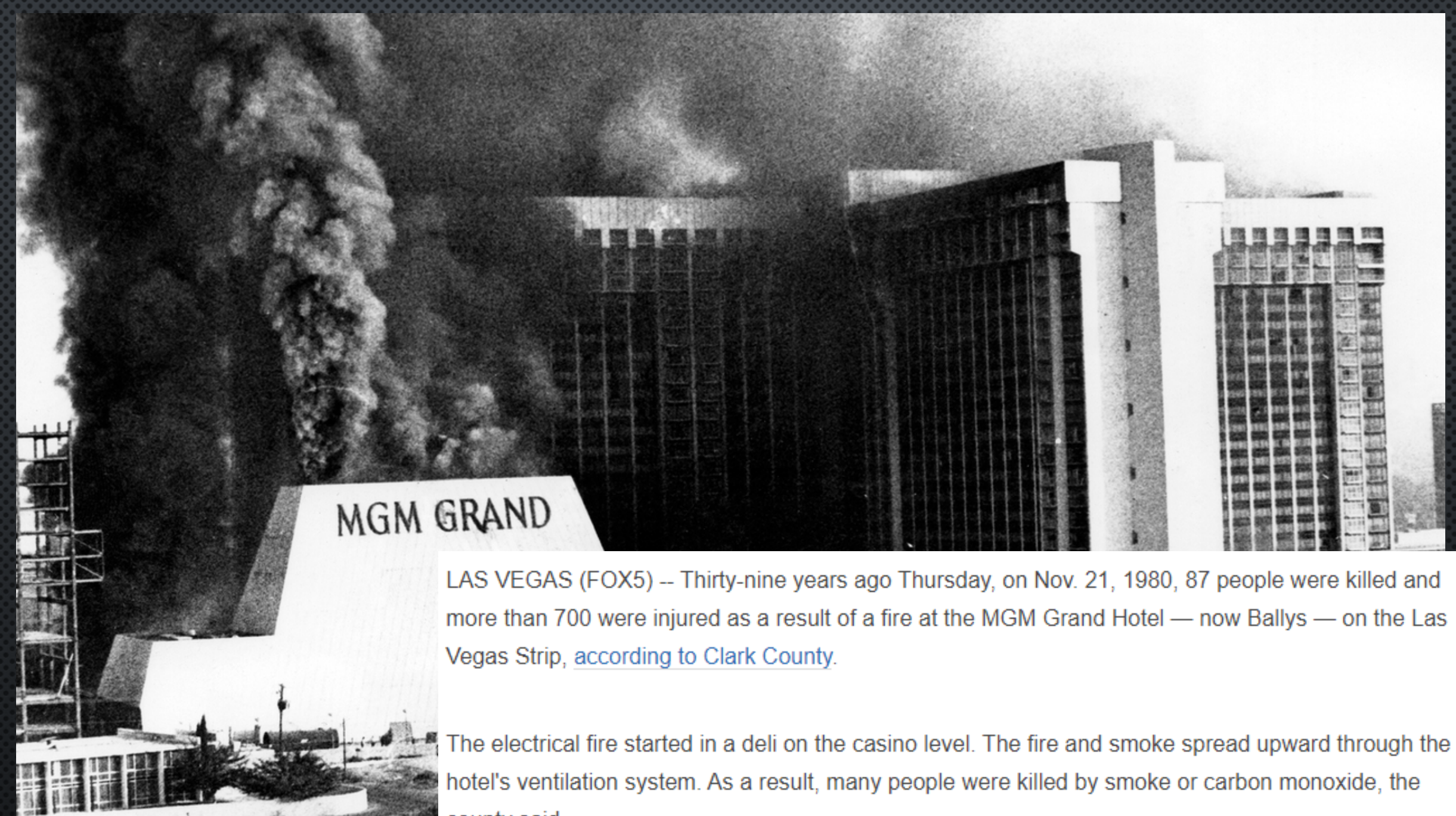
**2 story car park under
multi-story luxury
apartments**



Where's all the heat and smoke going?



“It’s all steel and concrete, there’s nothing to burn...”



LAS VEGAS (FOX5) – Thirty-nine years ago Thursday, on Nov. 21, 1980, 87 people were killed and more than 700 were injured as a result of a fire at the MGM Grand Hotel — now Ballys — on the Las Vegas Strip, [according to Clark County](#).

The electrical fire started in a deli on the casino level. The fire and smoke spread upward through the hotel's ventilation system. As a result, many people were killed by smoke or carbon monoxide, the county said.

Sadly some things change only because of tragedy

Modernized codes

Smoke/heat detection

Fire suppression systems

Protected egress pathways

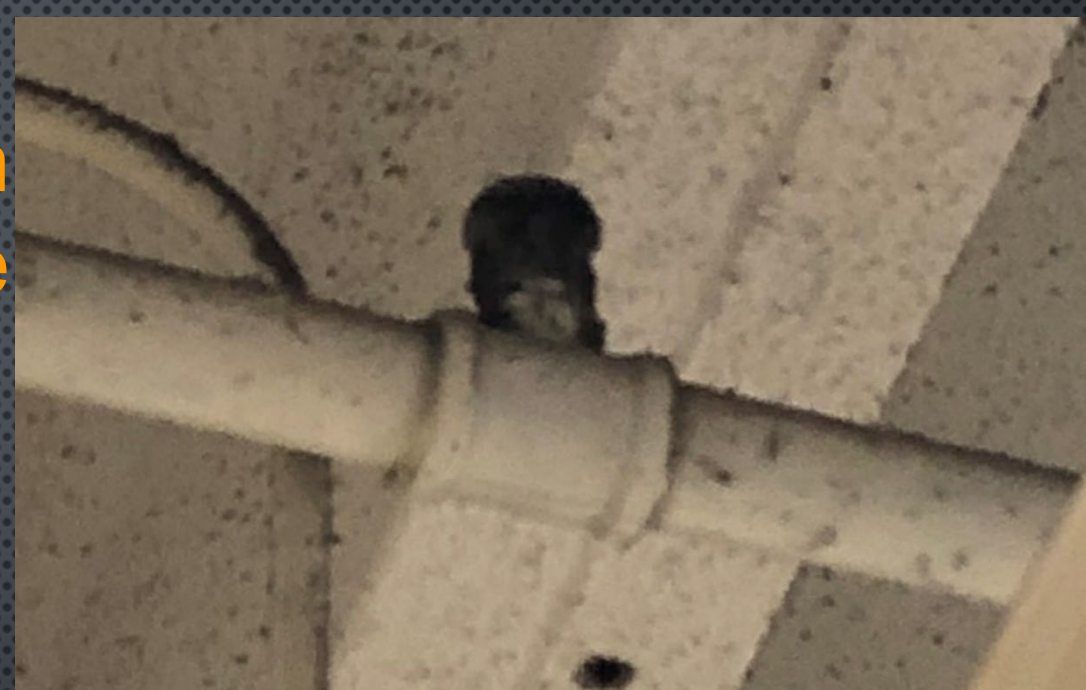
Compartmentalize with doors, fire breaks, etc.

Fire stopping in pipe chases, ducts, conduit, etc.

Impaired Fire Detection Devices



Fire system maintenance



International
Fire Code
18" ceiling
clearance
sprinklered
areas
24" ceiling
clearance in
non-sprinklered
areas



What happens when people interfere with those designed features?



Storage in stairwells ↑

March 2002, San Mateo County, California
Broken door closer noted during fire inspection, door was not shut when a fire broke out on the second floor.

Fatal flight from safety / 3 suffocate in stairwell -- fire spares their apartment

Suzanne Herel, Chronicle Staff Writers Published 4:00 am PST, Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Below and Middle:
The broken closer and smoke staining/charring on door indicate it was open



Picture of the closed 3rd floor stairwell door where mom and two children entered the stairwell

Mom collapsed on the third floor landing, 7 year old made it to the next landing, 3 year old made it to the landing where the open door was.

Sometimes
Common
sense is not
so common

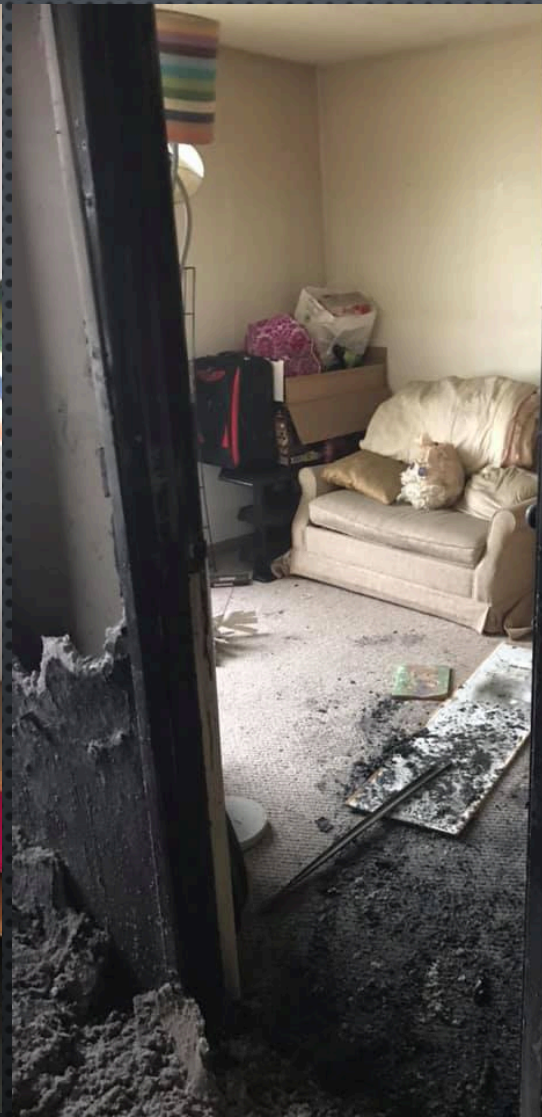


DOORS MATTER!!



Above: both sides of a door; post fire

Left: Note the damage in the hallway compared to the lack of damage in the bedroom



So what can you do?

- Educate and engage employees
(Be an advocate and a resource)
- Everyday best practices
(Lead by example)
- Inspections and “Safety Walks”
(You won’t see anything if you never leave your office)
- Build relationships with local fire departments
(Campus Visits, Pre-planning, Training, Maps)



**Remember...Prevention is more successful
than reaction.**

Small things done every day can reduce the
risk of fire and therefore reduce the risk to life,
property, and campus disruption.

Planning, classes, networking, sharing
information with other people and institutions,
can make all of our campuses safer.

Here's Time to Share...Begin Networking Today



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