

# How to Live with Your Fire Alarm System

Smoke detectors are sensitive to a number of items in addition to smoke from fire, including dusts and mists. Nuisance fire alarms and unnecessary fire department runs are dangerous, expensive, and disruptive for the fire department and create safety hazards for everyone.

## To prevent nuisance fire alarms, and fires:

- Do not smoke in your residence hall.
- Do not spray aerosol products - air fresheners, hair spray, spray paint, perfume, mists, insect spray, water, candles, incense, powder, etc. on or near smoke detectors or indoor areas. Consider using solid, non-aerosol air fresheners and keep spray paint, hazardous materials and dusty projects outdoors in a well ventilated area.
- Do not spray liquids on or near smoke detectors (cleaning products, water, and steam).
- Do not leave your microwave unattended. Burned food smoke can and does set off smoke detectors. Follow reheating directions and food preparation recommended cooking times, especially popcorn, and stay close by.



- Do not use prohibited items such as candles, toaster ovens, George Forman grills, space heaters, in your room. These items can cause nuisance fire alarms or worse - start a fire.



## Your life and the lives of others may depend on your smoke detector. Do not disable or cover it.



**Fire Prevention Week** (October 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>) commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, the tragic conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed more than 17,400 structures. [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)



For more about cooking fires and fire prevention tips, visit NFPA.org at <http://www.nfpa.org/index.asp>