

## RESOURCES

The City and the University offer multiple resources for students who live off Grounds:

### **City Property Maintenance Inspector • 434.970.3184**

- The University funds a full-time City Property Maintenance Inspector to help address fire and other safety concerns of off-Grounds students in neighborhoods surrounding the University.
- Students with a safety or building-related concern should first contact their landlord or property manager. If your issues are not corrected, contact Aaron Fabio, Property Maintenance Inspector, [fabioa@charlottesville.org](mailto:fabioa@charlottesville.org).

### **Charlottesville Fire Department • 434.970.3240**

- For questions about City fire/building codes or fire safety procedures.

### **U.Va. Fire Safety Program • 434.982.4914**

- For advice about fire safety tips, evacuation planning, or who to contact with other concerns. Gerald Drumheller, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, [gdd7h@virginia.edu](mailto:gdd7h@virginia.edu)

### **U.Va. Off-Grounds Housing Office • 434.243.8924**

- For questions about off-Grounds Housing, or advice or assistance regarding communicating with your landlord. Vicki Hawes, Off-Grounds Housing Office, [vicki@virginia.edu](mailto:vicki@virginia.edu).

# Fire Safety

# 101



# TIME: JANUARY 21, 2013, 5:00 A.M.

## SETTING:

### A house on Wertland Street, near the UVa Corner

Inside, 11 students are sound asleep.

On the front porch, a fire is burning.

Sanitation workers on their morning rounds spot the flames. Moving fast, they start yelling and throwing rocks at the windows to wake everyone up.

Indoors, the groggy students wake up and start scrambling to get out.

Flames from a burning couch block the front door.

The students race to the only other exit—in the back, through a bedroom, where the door is closed... but fortunately, not locked.

In that bedroom, the students struggle to wake up the sleeping occupant: yelling, shaking him, and pulling him out.

Finally outside, they watch as their house, belongings, and several of their cars are destroyed.

In a daze, they recognize that they were lucky: This episode could have had a very different ending.



Wertland Street house.

## Luck Is Not a Plan. Practice Fire Safety.

- 1 Have working smoke detectors on each floor and test them weekly.
- 2 Know where your exits are and keep your exits clear.
- 3 Prepare an evacuation plan and practice it.
- 4 In case of a fire: evacuate, call 911 and DON'T REENTER.
- 5 Designate a place outside to gather and ensure that everyone is safe.
- 6 Be aware of the fire danger of sofas/upholstered furniture on porches.
- 7 The University and the City have resources to help you. Take advantage of these resources.

*I assumed I would be in a car crash before I would be in a house fire. I didn't have a plan for what to do when your house is burning down.*

—Austin Lucas, SEAS degree candidate, 2015