

HCA Fire

On the evening of March 26, 2009, a mattress fire occurred in an HCA apartment. The mattress was ignited by a *candle* burning too close to the mattress. Fortunately, the damage was minimal and there were no injuries. However, we were extremely lucky. This incident had the very real potential to cause *serious injury* to the residents and significant damage to the building.

The National Fire Protection Association estimated that over 15,600 home structure fires are started by candles *each year!* These fires resulted in an estimated 150 deaths and 1,270 injuries.

All students are reminded that College policy and Haverford Township fire ordinances **do not allow the use of candles or any type of open flame in student housing.**

In addition, during this incident a resident was slow to leave the building when the fire alarm activated. All residents are required to **immediately** leave the building upon the activation of the fire alarm system. Slow or no evacuation during a fire alarm activation could result in being trapped and seriously injured during a fire incident.



In the event of a fire residents should take the following actions:

- Activate the nearest building fire alarm pull station and leave the building immediately.
- Notify other residents along the way without delaying your escape.
- Call Safety and Security from a safe location outside the building and provide as many details about the incident as possible
- Students should leave the building immediately during a fire and should not attempt to fight any fire or save any possessions. Your safety is our primary concern.