



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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## Eastern to Burn Down Residence Hall Room

Willimantic, Conn. — On Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Department of Public Safety at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) and the Willimantic Fire Department, in observation of Fire Safety Week in America, will jointly conduct a live burning of a residence hall room.

**Please note that this is not a room in a facility constructed with taxpayer dollars!**

The University's Department of Facilities Management and Planning will construct a residence hall room, fill it with furniture and miscellaneous student belongings, and then set the room on fire. "It's a compelling, almost riveting experience," said Eric Germain, coordinator of environmental health and safety at Eastern. "The whole room will be totally engulfed within three minutes. The goal of the demonstration is to show the students how fast a typical residence hall room can burn."

Willimantic's Fire Department will use its smoke trailer to show students how visibility is reduced by smoke in a fire. Students will also be provided instruction on how to quickly use fire extinguishers.

Annually, 1,800 fires are reported on university campuses. Five result in fatalities. This past August, three students died in a fire at the University of Mississippi. Arson accounts for thirty percent of the fires; cooking 19 percent; electrical 15 percent; smoking 12 percent; candles 11 percent; and another 11 percent for miscellaneous accidents.

Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University System (CSU) and is the state's public liberal arts university. Eastern serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

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