



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 8/13/10**

**CONTACT:** Wendy Forbes, (303) 252-3017  
[wforbes@northmetrofire.org](mailto:wforbes@northmetrofire.org)

### **COLLEGE CAMPUS SAFETY SMARTS**

**Broomfield, CO**— It's back to college for your child, but now a dorm room or Greek residence will serve as home-sweet-home. Take some time to remind your college student to consider safety since an average of 1,800 fires occur in dormitories and Greek housing each year in the United States.

*In January 2000, Seton Hall University experienced a dormitory fire that killed three students and injured over 58 more. Fortunately a College Senior living in the dormitory was woken up by a fire alarm and took the time to pound on doors, wake other students and convince them not to ignore the alarm—without her efforts the number of deaths would have likely climbed much higher.*

Why is college housing and the students living in them so vulnerable to fires? The reasons for college housing fires are plentiful. Careless smoking, unattended candles and cooking in dormitory rooms are some of the most common, preventable causes. However, the number one cause is arson. This wide range of fire causes offers students a solid reason to pay attention to fire alarms and respond quickly when they signal.

-more-

### **College Living Safety and You**

- Look for fully sprinklered housing options when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing
- Ensure that your dormitory or apartment has smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside every sleeping area (i.e. hallway) and on every level of the building.
- Never remove batteries or disable alarms.
- Learn your building's evacuation plan and participate in all drills as if they were the real thing.
- If you live off-campus, have a fire escape plan with two ways out of each room.
- When the smoke alarm or fire alarm sounds get out of the building quickly – don't ignore the alarm or wait to verify if there is an actual fire.
- During a power outage, have a working flashlight available for your use.
- Cook only where it is permitted.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking (don't leave food unattended.)
- Cook only when you are alert, not sleepy or drowsy from medicine or alcohol.
- Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a barbecue grill, fire pit, or chimenea.
- Check your school's rules before using electrical appliances in your room.
- Use a surge protector for your computer and plug the protector directly into an outlet.

Fires in dormitories and greek residences are more common during the evening hours, between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m., as well as on weekends (National Fire Protection Association.) This is why a working smoke alarm is essential – to wake you up if a fire emergency occurs in your residence.

###

### **About North Metro Fire Rescue District**

North Metro Fire Rescue is dedicated to your quality care. North Metro Fire Rescue provides fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and rescue services to our community. Formed in 1946, the district now covers 63 square miles with a population of approximately 103,000 people including the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Northglenn and unincorporated areas of Boulder, Adams and Jefferson Counties.