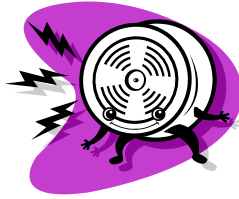


# Understanding Your Residence Hall Fire Alarm System



**Smoke detectors** are sensitive to a number of items in addition to smoke from fire, including high levels of dust, powders, steam and mists. A room or hall smoke detector may activate upon exposure to these products. This type of activation is classified as a **nuisance alarm**. The Fire Department must respond in emergency mode to **any** fire alarm activation on Campus, and the College can be fined by the Town for excessive nuisance alarms.

## Tips to prevent nuisance fire alarms:

1. Do not spray aerosol products (air fresheners, hair spray, spray paint, perfume, mists, body sprays, insect spray or powders, etc.) near smoke detectors or in large amounts.
2. Consider working on dusty projects in a well-ventilated area.
3. Do not spray liquids on or near smoke detectors (non aerosol cleaning products, water, hair care products, etc.)
4. Never leave your microwave unattended. Follow heating directions for foods, especially popcorn, and stay close by.
5. Do not use prohibited items such as candles, incense, toaster ovens, George Foreman Grills, smoking materials, or space heaters in your room. These items can cause nuisance fire alarms or worse - start a fire.
6. Keep the bathroom door closed when showering and until the steam dissipates. Excessive steam from the shower can activate the alarm if the steam reaches the detector.
7. Don't place fans where the fan air/dust can strike the detector or use hair dryers or curling irons under the smoke detector.

**Nuisance fire alarms and the resulting unnecessary Fire Department runs are dangerous and disruptive for the Fire Department and create safety hazards for everyone.**