

**Summary Update**  
**Status of Institutional Life-Safety Plans**

**The Citadel**

The Citadel's four barracks are equipped with sprinkler systems and the College maintains a guard/fire watch on a 24-hour a day basis. While one of the barracks is a year old, the remaining three are in line for subsequent replacement over the next several years. Phase three of this process began in the summer of 1997. This replacement process is closely tied to project approval and funding provided by the State. Upon completion of all four phases of the barracks replacement project, all life-safety requirements will be met for all cadet housing.

**Clemson University**

Clemson indicates that of its 23 dormitories, two are equipped with sprinklers and three more are currently scheduled for sprinkler installation. Sprinkler systems will be installed in the remaining 18 as they are scheduled for renovation and as asbestos abatement is completed. Clemson included the installation of a sprinkler system in Manning Hall in its 1998-99 Annual Permanent Improvement Plan (APIP).

**Coastal Carolina University**

Coastal has nine dormitory buildings, one of which is equipped with a sprinkler system. The University plans to install sprinkler systems in all but one dormitory section this year. The facilities in the section not to be sprinkled are brick and each unit has an outside entrance. Therefore, additional fire suppression systems are not planned currently for these facilities. The University's additional life-safety measures will be implemented over a five year period. These items include the upgrade or installation of a fire pump, additional monitoring communication lines, and additional smoke detectors.

**College of Charleston**

The College of Charleston indicates that more than 64 percent of its residents occupy facilities that are protected, or are under conversion to include, sprinkler and/or stand pipe systems (sprinkler systems are in the process of being designed and installed in all fraternity houses). The College has six dormitories, of which one is equipped with sprinklers, and 36 houses, of which one is equipped. Of the total facilities, 20 consist of only two floors and 11 consist of three floors. The remaining facilities consist of four, five, and six floors.

The College notes that sprinklers are only one aspect of Fire Safety. The College's program incorporates equipment, alarm systems, education, and training into a broad effort to provide its residents with fire protection. All residents are covered by smoke detectors, emergency lighting systems and illuminated exit signs. Fire extinguishers are placed strategically throughout the housing facilities, and the facilities meet all Fire Code requirements. The College's report is supplemented with detail regarding the College's Division of Fire and Life Safety staffing, responsibilities, fire inspection program, fire prevention program, and code compliance and reporting practices.

The College maintains that it is continually looking for better ways to increase the safety and security of its residents. However, in view of the measures it has currently in place, the College does not believe that the wholesale installation of sprinkler systems in all of its facilities would dramatically increase the level of safety. Thus, the College plans to upgrade its smoke detection systems as its first priority in planning for improvements. The estimated cost for these modifications is below \$50,000. The suggested source of funds beyond any external support is auxiliary housing.

**Francis Marion University**

All of the University's residential facilities are equipped with fire alarm systems, smoke detection systems, fire suppression systems (including sprinklers, hoses, and extinguishers), and appropriate access/egress systems.

### Lander University

Lander has seven dormitories, one of which is equipped with a sprinkler system. The University indicates that additional life-safety measures will be implemented as funding becomes available from student housing fees; However, the University currently has two housing revenue bonds outstanding with all auxiliary enterprise revenue pledged to support those bonds.

The University, in concert with the Greenwood Fire Department, conducts fire drills in all of the residential facilities. In addition, the Residence Life Office implements a program of routine room inspection for fire and safety hazards, and Physical Plant personnel inspect fire extinguishers and alarm systems routinely.

The University notes that the facilities which currently lack sprinkler systems are in compliance with the Fire Code because sprinklers were not required at the time of construction. Therefore, the University's emphasis will be to move ahead on correcting other deficiencies first. These include stand pipe system upgrades, fire stair upgrades, and new alarm system installation. The University will then address the sprinkler systems installation on a phased-in basis according to the level of risk assessment for each facility.

The only work anticipated to be accomplished in 1997-98 was an upgrade of the standpipe system at Coleman Hall. This work was not accomplished, however, due to the discovery subsequent to preparation of the plan of an egress problem at Brookside and Williamston dormitories and the substantial related cost of correcting that problem. The problems at Brookside and Williamston exhausted the funds that would have been used for Coleman Hall. Although the deficiencies at Brookside and Williamston have now been corrected, implementation of the institution's plan is a year behind.

### SC State University

SC State has 13 dormitories of which three are equipped with sprinkler systems. The University indicates that no excess operating funds are available to fund the cost of additional life-safety measures since utilizing housing revenues would require a sizable increase in fees to service the additional debt. The status the University's life-safety plan has not changed since its February 1997 report.

### University of SC - Columbia

The University has 35 dormitories of which one is currently being retrofitted with a sprinkler system. Additionally, its new 400 bed housing facility will be constructed with a sprinkler system. Of the other 34 facilities, several are partially equipped with sprinklers in basement, attic, trash chute, storage, and academic areas.

The University indicates that, as a result of a detailed study which was conducted by a fire protection engineering company in 1991, its top priority has been to install hard wired smoke and fire alarms with central reporting capabilities. A project was established in 1992 to accomplish these priorities. This project is funded with housing revenues and operating fund balances and is expected to be completed by 1999.

However, since reporting on the status of life-safety measures last year, the University has made significant progress. While the total cost to fully upgrade existing alarm and reporting systems and adding fire suppression systems is considerably above what current revenue streams will support, the institution has continued investing heavily in upgrading life-safety systems in its residential facilities.

### University of SC - Spartanburg

The University acquired the Rifle Ridge apartment buildings in 1997. These 12 2-story buildings are between 12 and 13 years old. Buildings 1- 6 are hard wired for smoke detection, and Buildings 7 - 12 have battery operated detectors. No fire alarm systems or fire suppression systems exist in any of the buildings. However, each apartment has two functioning smoke alarms that are checked a minimum of twice a month. Each apartment has a functioning fire extinguisher which is checked a minimum of once a month. Training

regarding smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, evacuation procedures, and other life safety issues is held with resident advisors when they are hired. The resident advisors, in turn, share the information with residents verbally and via a newsletter and or pamphlet. In addition, fire walls in attics have been repaired or replaced as necessary. Inspections of the apartments are conducted by the local Fire Marshal twice a year and during the annual campus inspection by the State Fire Marshal.

### **Winthrop University**

Winthrop has eight dormitories which are between 29 and 102 years old. Two are equipped with sprinkler systems, with one of these requiring upgrades. If constructed under current building codes, the other six dormitories would be required to have sprinkler systems installed.

The University indicates that as funding is made available for major renovation of the residence facilities which are not equipped with sprinklers, each building will have an appropriate system installed as required by Building and Safety Codes that are in effect at the time of renovation. The University utilizes a campus wide fire alarm system to monitor campus buildings at a central station located at the Campus Police Department. This station is monitored 24 hours a day year round. Residential facilities receive routine testing and inspection by the University and are inspected annually by the Resident Deputy State Fire Marshal. These facilities are equipped with fire extinguishers, emergency and exit lighting, and stand pipe hose systems. Only one dormitory is not equipped with a stand pipe system as this building is a complex of converted motel buildings in which all rooms exit to the outside.

The university reports that no progress has been made on life-safety issues as reported to the Commission in February 1997. The institution continues to keep all of these items on its capital needs list. Although the buildings, if built today, would not meet the newest codes, the facilities are in compliance with relevant codes and are not unsafe. As buildings are renovated, however, they will be brought up to the most current code at the time of renovation. Winthrop plans to include the installation of a sprinkler system in its 1998-99 APIP proposal for the renovation of Breazeale Hall.

### **Denmark Technical College**

Denmark has a one-story and two, two-story dormitories. These buildings are 41, 26, and 35 years old. Based on the age and construction materials of these buildings, the College does not have a plan for installation of sprinkler systems. Additionally, no major structural changes have taken place to require the installation of a sprinkler system in these facilities. In the event that such becomes a requirement, the College would seek funding from a Capital Bond Bill or sources other than a fee increase to residential students. The College currently has no indebtedness for dormitory structures at this time.

The College used a portion of its 1997 Capital fee to purchase portable escape ladders for the second story rooms. Central fire alarms, extinguishers and smoke detectors are monitored by Campus Police. The College has upgraded its fire alarm system to provide early detection of smoke and heat.

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Updated May 1998