Fire Safety Educational Sanction – False Alarms at Queen’s

In residence we are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of every person living in our communities. Our Educational Sanctions have been designed to promote our goals and enlist your assistance in achieving them. You will find the instructions for your sanction listed below.

**Learning Outcomes**

The goals of this sanction are as follows:

- Consider the negative impact that false alarms have on the Queen's and Kingston Communities.
- Think of ways you can be proactive and encourage safety in your community during alarms.
- Identify your routes of egress from your residence room.

**Timeline**

Your completed sanction is due back to the Residence Student Conduct Assistant ([resrules@queensu.ca](mailto:resrules@queensu.ca) or Victoria Hall Room 102C) within five business days from the date of your Letter of Responsibility.

If you require any accommodations to complete your educational sanction, contact the Residence Student Conduct Office at [resrules@queensu.ca](mailto:resrules@queensu.ca) or 613-533-6000 ext. 78102/79015.

If you choose not to complete the educational sanction by the due date a $50 Fine (Level One) or $100 Fine (Level Two/Three) will be placed directly onto your SOLUS account. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this educational sanction or our conduct process, please contact the Residence Student Conduct Office at [resrules@queensu.ca](mailto:resrules@queensu.ca).

**Instructions**

Watch the following video, An Alarming Affair, in order to learn about false fire alarms at Queen’s: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XAzqaa16e8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XAzqaa16e8) and respond to the following questions:

1. How do false fire alarms at Queen's impact your residence community? How do they impact the Kingston community?

2. Explain how you can protect your friends as well as how you can be more proactive in your community when the fire alarm sounds in your building.

3. Outline the path you would take to leave your room using the closest emergency exit and the closest alternate emergency exit. Walk the path and provide the actual time it took you to leave your residence building. If you encounter a door that is alarmed provide an estimate of the time it would take you to leave the building. Contrast your evacuation time with the timing of the fire depicted in the Alarming Affair video.

**Deliverables**

Ensure that your response effectively addresses the goals provided above and answers all of the questions listed in the instructions. You have the option of doing the response in one of the formats listed below. Please ensure that all
submissions are PC compatible- if you are using an iOS system, please save the documents in a format compatible to Microsoft applications.

- Written Response (typed, 12pt font, double-spaced, approximately 500 words)
- Video Response (5-10 minutes in length)
- Posters/Infographic (minimum five detailed posters, including both text and graphics)
- Slideshow (minimum ten slides, including both text and graphics)

We expect that the tone of this assignment will be considerate and respectful, use language that is inclusive, appropriate, and appealing to the residence community. Your response will be reviewed and if there are concerns or questions with your response you may be contacted by your Residence Life Coordinator to set up an appointment to discuss it further.

If there is any evidence of plagiarism your sanction will be considered incomplete and you will be required to complete an educational sanction on plagiarism or you will have the appropriate fine for an incomplete sanction placed on your student account.

If you would like to present the information in a way that is not listed above, contact the Residence Student Conduct Office (resrules@queensu.ca or 613-533-6000 ext. 78102/79015) before the deadline to discuss how it meets the requirements and the goals of the educational sanction.
THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING SMOKE ALARMS

Some of the most law-abiding citizens are unknowingly breaking the law every day. Not for robbery, or speeding, or assault, but simply because they don’t have working smoke alarms where they reside. On March 1st, 2006, the Ontario Fire Code was amended to have working smoke alarms on every level. This was in addition to requiring the existing requirement of having smoke alarms outside all sleeping areas.

Ontario fire statistics reveal that in about 50 per cent of fatal home fires, the victims had no smoke alarm warning.

The Ontario Fire Code requires that smoke alarms in all places of residence be maintained in operating condition. The Fire Code states that the “Owner” is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Code. The definition of an “Owner” under the Ontario Fire Code is as follows:

“Any person, firm or corporation having control over any portion of the building or property under consideration and includes the persons in the building or property.”

Any person who contravenes the Fire Code is guilty of a provincial offence. Failure to maintain smoke alarms in operating condition is in violation of the Ontario Fire Code and subject to a fine, imprisonment, or to both. You as a student can be charged under the Fire Code. The penalties for non-compliance of smoke alarm requirements are:

- $235 fine (total payable) under Part 1 (Certificates of offence) of the Provincial Offences Act;

  or

- a maximum $60,000 fine or up to one year in jail or both for individuals, and a maximum $100,000 fine for corporations, under Subsection 26(3) of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997.

Kingston Fire & Rescue believes that educating the public is a critical component of any smoke alarm program. Not only must individuals be educated about smoke alarm types, placement,