



Oakland Warehouse Fire - Safety Tips

As many of you watched social media this weekend, you saw the events unfold regarding the tragic Oakland, California warehouse fire. At this time, the death count is over 30 and still rising including many college students. Some students may not know that a similar tragedy hit home in West Warwick, Rhode Island in 2003 at the Station Night Club fire when 100 people perished in a crowded night club.

Underground venues are often advertised outside of normal communication means. They tend to be set up in older buildings such as warehouses that have not been upgraded with modern smoke detectors and automatic sprinklers. These types of establishments are often unsafe especially with large crowds.

Please consider these tips when attending off campus, concert or night club venues:

- **Avoid Makeshift Venues** Safe buildings are inspected by the local building and fire departments to be sure they have the right equipment. This includes checking for fire alarms, sprinklers, two means of egress, proper staircases, emergency lighting and lighted exit signs.
- **Be Careful of Special Effects** Pyrotechnics, fog machines, and other special effects may only be used during a show only if a special permit is obtained. The Station Night club fire started with pyrotechnics which ignited unpermitted acoustic material.
- **Avoid Overcrowded Venues** If a place appears to be overcrowded, it's safer for you and your friends to leave. Crowd crush is a serious hazard and can be fatal when a fire breaks out.
- **Plan Your Exit** Be mindful of where the exits are. The closest exit may not be the way you entered. All fire exit doors should be free and clear during occupancy and should be easily identifiable. Know two ways out, no matter where you are.

For more information on off-campus fire safety including residential safety tips contact OEHS www.ehs.umb.edu or checkout this link to "Fire Safety Checklist" for students living in off-campus housing https://www.umb.edu/ehs/fire_safety;