

Information regarding the fire alarm system

This additional information should document how the automatic fire alarm system, which we installed for your safety, works and how you may avoid false alarms (that means: causing a fire alarm accidentally without the occurrence of fire)

The fire alarm system and all other fire preventions reduce the danger of spreading fire and smoke in the whole building. All these installations were built for the safety of our residents, that means, for YOU! For granting this safety the fire detectors have to be set up as sensitive as possible, so that on the one hand fire and smoke can be detected immediately and on the other hand alarms, which are directly forwarded to the fire department, are tripped as fast as possible, so the building may be evacuated immediately after starting the alarm.

In case of fire every second counts saving your and your colleagues' lives and to avoid that you might be injured.

For that reason false alarms might be expensive, as in any case of alarm the fire department assumes that there is an occurrence of fire and they have to come anyways and under certain circumstances also a security agency has to come. In case of false alarm all costs (for fire brigade, security agency etc.) have to be covered by the person who caused the false alarm.

As described in our fire safety guidelines (see 2.2 „automatic smoke detectors“) false alarms could be caused by: smoke (also smoke of cigarettes, candles, incense sticks etc.), steam (too much steam in the vestibule of the room, because of leaving the bathroom door open, improper use of an electric kettle etc.), severe formation of smoke in the kitchen (caused by leaving the windows closed while cooking)

If a false alarm is tripped in a room of a student the costs have to be covered by the student living in this room.

To keep the risk of causing a false alarm as modest as possible we have some useful tips for you:

Smoking:

- In all the dorms of Akademikerhilfe there is a **ban of smoke** as the automatic smoke detectors are not able to distinguish between smoke of cigarettes or candles etc. and smoke caused by a fire.

Taking a shower:

- **Before** having a shower:
Please do not ventilate the room by opening the windows right **before** having a shower, because if the outside temperature differs widely from the inside temperature, especially in spring, fall and winter, there is a high risk of causing a false alarm. If possible please turn on ventilation systems if they are not starting automatically.
- **During** having a shower:
Keep the bathroom door close **during** having a shower so that steam might not cause an alarm in the vestibule or in the room. Leave the ventilation running.
- **After** having a shower:
Open the bathroom door slowly and just a gap wide so that outflowing steam may not cause an alarm. Still leave the ventilation running.

Cooking:

- **Right before** cooking:
In most kitchens there are heat detectors and no smoke detectors, these heat detectors trip an alarm at a certain temperature or a certain rise of temperature. In the rooms, halls and stairways there are smoke detectors and these trip an alarm, as mentioned above, at a certain amount of steam. So all the rooms situated next to the kitchens have to be closed and in the kitchens the ventilations, if existing, have to be turned on. If you do so you do not only avoid false alarms but you also avoid cooking smells in your room.
- **After** cooking:
The doors have to stay closed and the ventilations have to be left running until any danger of causing a false alarm is eliminated.