



Carnegie Mellon University

Environmental Health & Safety

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Smoking Fire Safety

It should come as no surprise that smoking has been contributed to many fire-related injuries and property damage through the years, remaining as one of the leading causes of student deaths on college campuses. One of the main reasons that these incidents have occurred is the improper disposal of cigarette butts or other smoking materials.

Smoking Locations

- Smoking, including the use of vapes or other electronic devices, is prohibited inside of all Carnegie Mellon University facilities and housing, as well as within 25 feet of any flammable or combustible material.
- Designated locations have been strategically placed around campus in areas that have been deemed as meeting requirements for both safety and health. Only smoke in these designated areas around campus.
- Each smoking location contains an approved receptacle for the disposal of smoking materials. These are the only receptacles that are permitted to be used. If you see any receptacles that look different than the one pictured, report them to safety@andrew.cmu.edu so that they can be replaced with the appropriate type.



For more information on smoking locations around campus or other safety information, visit the [Workplace and Construction Safety tab](#) on the Environmental Health and Safety Website.

Best Practices

- Dispose of all smoking materials in an approved receptacle. Never throw them into the trash or flick them on to the ground. If you are off campus and there is no designated smoking location with an approved receptacle, consider using a sturdy ash tray with a wide base or a metal bucket filled with sand to prevent tip over. When emptying the ashtray, soak all smoking materials and ashes in water prior to disposal.
- Do not smoke after taking medicine that could make you drowsy, if you have been drinking alcohol or if you are impaired in any other way.
- Avoid smoking indoors, especially while lying in bed or on the sofa.
- If smoking has taken place indoors, check for discarded cigarette butts before going to bed. Check under furniture cushions and around places where people smoke for cigarette butts that may have fallen out of sight.
- Never smoke around oxygen.

Did You Know?

Electronic cigarettes and vapes also present a potential fire hazard if not cared for properly. The United States Fire Administration reported that 62% of electronic cigarette fires occurred when stored in a clothing pocket.

- Only use the provided (or designated) charger for your device. Do not use cellphone or tablet chargers.
- Only use the batteries that are recommended by the manufacturer for your device. Do not mix different types of batteries.
- Replace the batteries if they get wet, corroded or are damaged in any way.
- Never charge your device overnight or leave it charging unattended during any other time.
- Store your device and any spare batteries in a protective case.

Safety concern, training request, or other inquiry?
Reach out to the [Environmental Health and Safety Department](#) today!
safety@andrew.cmu.edu