Fire damages Kaibab dorm room

Unattended candle causes smoke damage, student evacuation

By Jennifer Amsler
Arizona Daily Wildcat
A small fire caused by a candle in Kaibab-Huachuca Residence Hall, 922 E. Fourth St., left dozens of residents standing outside in the street for an hour and a half Friday night.

John Ouillet, a resident assistant who oversees the hall in which the fire started, said the room sustained a lot of smoke damage, but much of the resident’s personal property went untouched.

Ouillet, a sociology junior, said a lot of the smoke damage could be fixed by just cleaning the walls.

Although Ouillet was not present when the fire broke out, he said the resident had been in and out of the room since Friday night.

Ouillet said the residence hall will have a hearing to determine a course of discipline for the resident. He said burning a candle in a room is prohibited, but there is ambiguity about the specific punishment.

Some students said they heard the fire alarms shortly before 6 p.m. and exited the residence hall immediately, leaving behind jackets, wallets, or for one student, clothing.

Shawn Lewis, an undeclared freshman, was in the shower when he heard alarms and only was able to throw a towel before leaving his room.

Resident assistants warned students they would be fined if they do not exit the building immediately when sirens go off, no matter what they are doing, Lewis said.

Lewis said test evacuations are done all of the time, and he thought they would only be outside for a few minutes.

However, the fire alarm was ringing due to a real emergency, but Lewis said he did not mind being outside without clothes.

“It’s better to be in a towel than dying (in a fire),” he said.

Lewis said no one offered to go inside and retrieve clothing for him, even after the fire was extinguished.

If the fire had continued, Lewis said test evacuations are done all of the time, and he thought they would only be outside for a few minutes. Lewis said he did not mind being outside without clothes.

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Departments worry about UA budget reallocation

By Natasha Bhuyan
Arizona Daily Wildcat
Administrators’ proposal to tax 10 percent of carry-forward funds could result in unnecessary spending and cripple departments already running low on resources, department heads said last week.

The concerns come in response to President Peter Likins’ 17 budget reallocation proposals, revealed two weeks ago, which would centralize the university budget and save money in a time when the UA is facing a decrease in state funding and rising operational costs.

One proposal would impose a 10 percent tax on carry-forward funds — leftover money in departments at the end of the fiscal year — and move the money to central administration.

However, the idea hit a sour note with department heads, who say they are already “woefully underfunded.”

Mike Hammond, head of the linguistics department, said although he understands the university is in a difficult financial situation, the linguistics department does not have unused funds sitting around for a rainy day.

“My own position is that that sort of tax is a very bad idea,” Hammond said in an e-mail. “The problem is that to the extent we ever have carry-forward, it is extremely small and budgeted for specific expenses in the coming year. I would strongly encourage a different mechanism to deal with the current financial situation.”

Provost George Davis argued UA administrators have “never touched” carry-forwards in the past, and now only want to tax vacancy savings derived from local and state dollars.

But J. Christopher Maloney, head of the philosophy department, said a tax on carry-forward funds would “very seriously bubble” his department’s capacity to teach and conduct research.

Maloney also pointed out the tax would discourage prudent financial management if departments have money leftover in June and suspect administrators will take it all.

“What would you do if you were a department head with, say, $10,000 in an account in mid-June?”