

Fire safety plan includes residence hall fire drills

By Paula Damke

This year for the first time, students living in UNL Residence Halls will be subject to fire drills twice a semester to evaluate fire procedures, according to Glen Schumann, coordinator for residence hall administration.

The fire drills are part of UNL's Housing Office and Environmental Health Department's planned safety program.

Schumann said the Housing Office has received criticism from the Lincoln Fire Dept., for what he called their lack of evaluation and fire safety in residence halls.

To get students to consider fire alarms seriously, student assistants (SAs) on each residence floor have become spokesmen for fire safety procedures, he said.

Evaluation responsibility

The SAs are responsible for evaluation of all students on their floor, Schumann said. In the past, he said SAs also have

failed to take fire alarms seriously.

This year's fire drills, whether they are announced in advance or unannounced, will help familiarize students with evacuation procedures, he said.

To deter students from making false fire alarms, hard glass covers are being installed over alarms in Abel and Harper Halls, on a trial basis, Schumann said. This will make it necessary to break the glass before pulling the alarm.

Housing Director Richard Armstrong said the covers, which cost about \$20 each, are being financed by money remaining in another section of the capital improvement fund. He said the covers, approved by the state fire marshal, were made in Canada and were approved after a year-long search by UNL's Housing Office.

Additional fire escapes

To meet fire codes, the Housing Office also is installing additional fire escapes in

the Neihardt Residential Center at a cost of \$55,000, Armstrong said.

The Burr-Fedde Residential Complex also has emergency exits under construction. The exits cost \$17,500. Bids on stairwell enclosures for the complex now are being taken, Armstrong said.

An additional \$12,000 has been appropriated for emergency lighting in dorm hallways and staircases. The sum is not enough money to cover the cost of installations in all residence halls, Armstrong said. In November, he said he will ask the NU Board of Regents for additional funds for the emergency lighting.

Armstrong said his office is working on two requirement lists fire officials think are necessary to meet fire codes. The first list arrived at UNL in November, 1972. Appropriations for financing requirement lists were made by the regents then, Armstrong said.

He said financing for the original requirement list was \$521,400, of which the regents have appropriated \$213,400. Armstrong said the dormitories still need between \$314,000 and \$350,000 to complete the second requirement list.

Inflation and the additional cost estimates of emergency lighting in all residence halls are reasons for the higher appropriation request, Armstrong said.

Financing of the projects is taken from the capital improvement fund to which all residence hall students contribute through their room bill, Armstrong said.

The procedure starts when the Housing Office has sketches of needed improvement drawn by UNL Physical Plant officials. The office then sends a list of capital improvement priorities to Ken Bader, vice chancellor for student affairs, who then views the plans and makes recommendations on priorities to the regents, Armstrong said.

100 per cent

Armstrong said in his years at UNL, the regents have financed housing requests for appropriations 100 per cent.

This year's improvements in fire safety in residence halls resulted from last year's priority capital improvement list. It has taken nearly a year to get projects started, some of which won't be finished until Christmas, Armstrong said.

Armstrong said his staff now is considering capital improvements for next year's priority list. Findings are due by Sept. 24.

Armstrong's priority list is due to Bader by October, so that Bader can review it and make recommendations prior to the regents November meeting.

Armstrong said fire safety requirements will be the top priority on the list. The physical improvements to meet the fire codes are important, he said, but equally important is the education of residence hall members to fire dangers.

Stairway exits

The only exits from out of the residence halls during fire alarms are stairways. All elevators are cut off when the fire alarm is sounded, Hansen said. The students don't stop and think that smoke spreads one floor per minute," Hansen said. Smoke spreads through the staircases, she said, making it doubly important that evacuation be prompt.

Hansen said the fire drills are to prevent a crisis before it happens.

"If the student stops and thinks about what fire is, he will evacuate the building, but he must be reminded constantly, especially after false fire alarms are sounded," Hansen said.

Husker fans heed warning; parking violations decrease

After last Saturday's football game, the score stood at 63 illegally parked cars towed away and 30 student football tickets "retained."

The cars were towed to the impoundment lot at 1100 N. 17th St. during the LSU football game, according to city and campus police.

With a \$15 fine per car, three Lincoln towing companies collectively are \$840 richer.

Thirty-nine violations were cited by the Lincoln Police Department, according to Inspector Dean Leitner. This figure is lower than expected, he said.

This year there was "tremendous cooperation from the fans," because of good publicity, he said. Warning leaflets describing illegal parking places were mailed with every football ticket. Television channel 10 and radio stations KLIN and KFOR broadcast parking warnings, and the Lincoln Journal and Lincoln Star printed advance warning to football fans.

Fans who were parked illegally were warned to move their cars, Leitner said. Most whose cars were towed disregarded police warnings, he said.

Campus police found 24 cars illegally parked on university property, according to John Duve, Campus Police parking and traffic coordinator.

The Athletic Department is reviewing approval to double the Fairgrounds bus service from two to four buses so people will not have to wait long for a bus, Duve said.

Ticket manager James Pittenger said 30 student football tickets were kept at the gates before the game Saturday. Students whose tickets were retained must talk to Pittenger, he said, adding he did not know the exact violations or actions to be taken.

Ticket policies forbid students to allow anyone else to use their season student football ticket.

He said he had "no way of knowing" if more students sold tickets before the game this year than in other years.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Nebraska Governor J. James Exon

Commission gets additional year

Group revived to organize colleges

By Theresa Forsman

Gov. J. James Exon has revived the 1202 Commission to serve as temporary coordinator for Nebraska postsecondary schools.

The commission was named for section 1202 of the federal Higher Education Act of 1972, which provides federal funds to states for long-range planning of higher education coordination.

Exon first appointed commission members in June 1974, for one year.

The 1975 Legislature did not act on LB579, which would have established a permanent coordinating body. That proposed bill resulted from studies and recommendations made by the original commission.

Three states

Nebraska is one of three states without an official coordinating body for higher education.

The state probably will be slow to accept a permanent commission which has some statutory authority, according to Norman Otto, Exon's executive administrative assistant.

Jim O'Hanlon, chairman of the commission, said it has helped prevent overlap in various colleges' adult education efforts. The commission helped revise information systems of the postsecondary schools so

the Legislature and others can interpret the information more easily.

Sticky issues

The commission will continue last year's work, he said, but added that he would not be surprised if it "got into the more sticky issues," which he said include assessing the role of private education in the state and laws governing private schools, improving the "minimal coordination in Omaha schools and trying to eliminate the overlap in the missions of different public institutions."

In its January 1975 report to Exon, the commission said there is a need for a plan for postsecondary education in the Omaha metropolitan area to identify institutional missions.

The commission also advised that adult education programs should not be duplicated in any area of the state.

Public attention

The commission should bring these issues to the public's attention, O'Hanlon said.

Included on the 23-member commission are NU Regents Robert Koefoot and Kermit Hansen, Education Commissioner Anne Campbell, NU Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Steven Sample and State Sens. Maurice Kremer and Douglas Bereuter.

The second 1202 Commission expires

June 30, 1976. Funds for the commission must be renewed yearly by the federal government.

O'Hanlon said the commission would cease to exist if the Legislature created a statutory coordinating body, but he does not know if the Legislature will be ready to act on LB579 by 1976.

Koefoot said the 1202 commission has no real power to coordinate, only the power to suggest programs to Exon.

LB579 calls for creation of a 15-member coordinating agency to insure maximum use of the educational resources of the state, while providing high quality secondary education.

Goals

The bill outlines goals of such an agency as:

- to provide high quality educational opportunities for all residents of Nebraska.
- to give a statewide perspective on decision making and planning for postsecondary education.
- to identify and meet the educational, service and research needs of the state.
- to promote increased sharing and most efficient use of expertise and resources of the postsecondary institutions in the state.
- to eliminate unneeded duplications and inefficiencies in programs and services.
- to maintain cooperation and joint planning among public, independent and proprietary institutions.

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Weather

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, temperatures ranging from 75 to 80. Southerly winds from 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday night: Clear, lows in the mid to upper-50's.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, temperatures in the low 80's.