# Number of Lincoln, UNL fires burns low

By Ad Hudler Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Fire prevention programs have helped reduce the number of fires this year in Lincoln and at UNL, local fire officials say.

Douglas Peterson of the University Police Department said UNL police officers have reported only three fires this semester.

Corp. Bill Manning, UNL police

Manning attributes the decrease to a fire awareness program sponsored by UNL's Office of Housing. Posters and pamphlets in residence halls teach students "learn not to burn" ideas.

Major losses from fire in the ention, is one city program that an outlet.

"We'd like to think this contrib-

year, is manned by 100 volun-"I think these statistics provide teers who distribute fire safety information and inspect residents homes for fire hazards.

Peterson said that at UNL, most residence hall fires occur in trash Mike Durst, a Lincoln fire in- chutes. Fires in residence hall spector, said the city's Volunteer rooms, although rare, usually are Fire Prevention Program, spon- caused by overloaded circuits sored by the Bureau of Fire Prev- too many appliances plugged into

Durst said electric blankets also can cause fires. Students' electric blankets, can "short out," thus becoming fire hazards.

Fires in off-campus housing us-The program, now in its first ually are the result of large parties, Durst said. Cigarettes from parties end up in trash barrels or trapped in upholstery. These could start fires later, after the party ends and the host or hostess falls asleep, sedated from alcohol.

But statistics indicate that college students don't start most of Lincoln fires. About 90 percent of Lincoln fires occur in single-family homes, Durst said. Most of these fires are caused by "careless smoking" or kitchen mishaps, he

To avoid fires, the Bureau of Fire Prevention provides these

· Keep the area near stoves free from rubbish and other flammable materials.

Empty the contents of ashtrays into a toilet, garbage disposal or a covered metal trash can. · Make sure no more than one

appliance or fixture is connected to an extension cord. Install good smoke detectors

and test them regularly. Check all windows and doors.

Be sure they can be opened easily from the inside.

## Leaves of absence focus of seminar

A seminar focusing on the benefits and details of working out faculty leaves of absence will be today from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union and Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Nebraska East Union.

A panel of faculty members who have been on leaves of absence will discuss the procedures for going on leave and the opportunities for professional growth while on leave. There also will be small group discussions.

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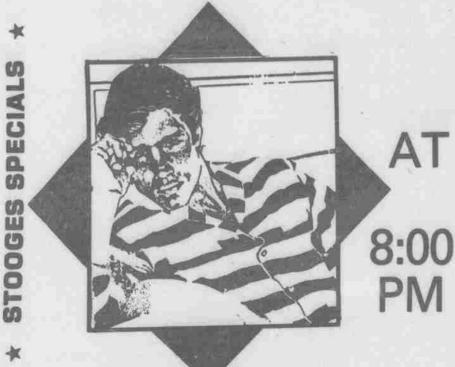
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department fire specialist, said city of Lincoln also have de- has helped decrease fires here. the number of fires at UNL has creased, according to a news redecreased in the past four or five lease from Mayor Roland Luedt- uted to the reduction of fires durke's office. Fire loss for Lincoln ing this seven-month period," during the first seven months of Durst said. 1984 was set at \$429, 314, about half of last year's total.

evidence that the city's various fire prevention programs are having a positive effect," Luedtke



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