



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY®

SOLTIS CENTER

2025 Annual Fire Safety Report on Student Housing

Higher Education Campus Fire Safety Standards and Measures
Information for 2025-2026 Academic Year
Contains Fire Statistics for Calendar Years 2024, 2023, and 2022

This Annual Fire Safety Report on Student Housing (Annual Fire Safety Report) and the Texas A&M University Soltis Center Annual Security Report are available at the following Texas A&M University Division of Risk, Ethics, and Compliance websites.

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/SoltisAnnualFireReport.pdf>

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/SoltisSecurityReport.pdf>

Email mas-clery@tamu.edu for assistance if any link does not function.

Table of Contents

Telephone Numbers and General Contact Information.....	2
Policy for preparing the Annual Fire Safety Report	2
Annual Fire Safety Report and Related Information	3
Notifications	3
Reporting Fires	4
Fire Safety Education, Training Programs, and Policies.....	4
Residence Facility Evacuation and Emergency Procedures	6
Evacuation in Case of a Fire.....	6
Fire Extinguishers	7
Residence Facility Evacuation Drills (Fire Drills)	7
Description of Residence Facility Fire Safety Systems	7
Fire Safety Definitions (Department of Education).....	7
On-Campus Housing Initiatives	8
2022 On-Campus Housing Facility Fire Statistics	9
2023 On-Campus Housing Facility Fire Statistics	9
2024 On-Campus Housing Facility Fire Statistics	9
Other Annual Fire Safety Reports and Annual Security Reports	10

Texas A&M University, Soltis Center

Telephone Numbers and General Contact Information

Texas A&M University Soltis Center

Bill and Wanda Soltis Academic Building

San Isidro de Peñas Blancas

Apdo 80-4417 Fortuna

San Carlos, Costa Rica

Main Phone Number during working hours 506.2461.9890

Soltis Center Director 506.8325.9898

Soltis Center Security (overnight from 18:00 to 06:00) 506.8723.3495

Education Abroad Office

Texas A&M University, 3262 TAMU

424 Spence St., Pavilion, 1st Floor

College Station, TX 77843-3262

(979) 845-0544

(979) 255-6103 24/7 hotline

Office of Environmental Health & Safety

Texas A&M University, 4472 TAMU

400 Harvey Mitchell Parkway, Suite 100

College Station, TX 77845-4472

(979) 845-2132

<https://ehs.tamu.edu/>

Policy for preparing the Annual Fire Safety Report

The Texas A&M University Soltis Center for Research and Education (Soltis Center) is a biological field station owned and operated by Texas A&M University. It is in the Central Volcanic Range of Costa Rica and is part of the well-known Monteverde Cloud Forests located toward the northwestern part of the range. The site hosts Texas A&M University and other university student academic groups and non-academic groups and researchers who use permanent/semi-permanent research equipment focused on biodiversity, sustainability, hydrology, and other studies.

The core facility of the Soltis Center is the Bill and Wanda Soltis Academic Building (7,500 square feet), which includes a cafeteria and multipurpose room, laundry room, wet and dry lab rooms, and two classrooms. Directly behind the academic building are 8 bungalows (each one is 600 square feet plus a covered deck) to house scientists, other guests, and students as an on-campus residential facility. In addition to the physical facilities, an extensive trail system has been developed to facilitate access to over 250 acres of primary and secondary forest.

In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), an institution is required to keep a fire log, publish an annual fire safety report containing fire safety information and fire statistics, and submit fire statistics to the Department of Education for their on-campus residential facilities. Disclosure of missing student procedures that pertain to the

institution's students residing in the on-campus housing facility is also required and can be found in the Soltis Center Annual Security Report at the following website:

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/SoltisSecurityReport.pdf>.

The Texas A&M University Global Engagement and the Division of Risk, Ethics, and Compliance (DREC) compiles the Soltis Center Annual Fire Safety Report and maintains a log of fire statistics with information and input from various sources such as on-site Soltis Center staff and security personnel.

The Annual Fire Safety Report is published every year by October 1st and contains three years of selected fire statistics in accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA). Fire safety reports published in 2025 contain the statistics for calendar years 2022 through 2024.

Annual Fire Safety Report and Related Information

The Annual Fire Safety Report is required by the HEOA for any Title IV institution that maintains an on-campus student housing facility. Per HEOA, an institution that maintains an on-campus student housing facility must collect fire statistics, publish an Annual Fire Safety Report, and keep a fire log. The information contained in this document relates to fire safety for on-campus student residential housing only. The Annual Security Report for the Soltis Center and Annual Security Reports for other Texas A&M University campuses can be found at the following website <https://orec.tamu.edu/clery/annual-security-report/>. Copies may be requested in person at the Soltis Center located at San Isidro de Peñas Blancas, Apdo 80-4417 Fortuna in San Carlos, Costa Rica or by calling 506.2461.9890 or emailing soltis@tamu.edu.

Notifications

Each year, an e-mail notification which provides website access to this report is sent to all current Texas A&M University students, faculty, and staff. Upon request, prospective students and employees and others may obtain a written paper copy of the report from the front desk of the Soltis Center at San Isidro de Penas Blancas, Apdo 80-4417 Fortuna, San Carlos, Costa Rica, by calling 506.2461.9890, emailing soltis@tamu.edu, or visiting the following website: <https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/SoltisAnnualFireReport.pdf>.

Prospective employees are notified about the Annual Fire Safety Report through an email distributed when applying for a position. Website access to the Annual Fire Safety Report is provided by the Division of Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness through a link called "Campus Security Policies and Crime Statistics (Clery Act)" located on the Prospective Employees webpage <https://employees.tamu.edu/talent-management/careers/index.html>. The Required Employee Notices & Important Reminders webpage (<https://employees.tamu.edu/employees/required-notices.html>) also links to the Annual Fire Safety Report under the "Safety and Security Notices" heading.

Prospective students are notified of the availability of the Annual Fire Safety Report through an email distributed when applying for admission. Website access to the Annual Security Report is provided by the Office of Admissions through a link titled "Campus Safety" located at the bottom of the Admissions webpage (<http://admissions.tamu.edu/>).

The Soltis Center provides a fire log for all reported fires that occur in its on-campus student housing facilities. The fire log with information regarding the most recent 60-day period is open to public inspection and is available on-site at the Soltis Center main building upon request, during normal business hours at the San Isidro de Penas Blancas, Apdo 80-4417 Fortuna, San Carlos, Costa Rica or obtained by calling 506.2461.9898 or emailing soltis@tamu.edu. Portions of the log older than 60 days can be requested from the Soltis Center Director and will be available within 2 business days of a request for public inspection. A request can be made through the contact information listed above. The Texas A&M Education Abroad Office (979-845-0544) can also assist in obtaining the fire log.

Reporting Fires

Per federal law, Texas A&M University is required to annually disclose statistical data on all fires that occur in on-campus student housing facilities. Students, employees, and others reporting a fire on the Soltis Center campus should call 911. The closest firefighter station to the Center is in La Fortuna, some 40 minutes away from the Soltis Center. Firefighters La Fortuna may also be contacted by dialing +506.2479.1553. An ambulance can be requested from the Local Red Cross at +506.2468.0143 or +506.2460.0101.

Occupants and others that see a fire or are notified of a fire should also begin immediate evacuation of the building and notify the on-site Soltis Center staff.

Below are the non-emergency phone numbers to call to report fires that have already been extinguished. These phone numbers are for fires that are no longer a danger and/or may not have already been reported to the local fire station. If students or employees find evidence of such a fire or if hear about such a fire, contact any of the following:

Soltis Center Director 506.2461.9898

Soltis Center Security overnight patrol 506.2461.9890 / 506.8723.3495 or in person at front desk

Texas A&M Education Abroad 24/7 Hotline 979-255-6103 or abroademergency@tamu.edu

For the purpose of including fires in the statistics of this annual fire safety report, individuals should also contact one of the above persons or departments. When calling, please provide as much information as possible about the location, date, time, and cause of the fire to aid in annual fire safety report statistical disclosures. Soltis Center Security is responsible for reporting fires that occur at the Soltis Center to the Soltis Center Director for inclusion in the Annual Fire Safety Report statistics and fire log. For more fire safety information, call the Texas A&M University Environmental Health & Safety Office at (979) 845-2132 or visit:

<https://www.tamu.edu/emergency/procedures/fireProcedures.html>

Fire Safety Education, Training Programs, and Policies

Residents are not required to complete formal fire safety training at any time but are informed of emergency/security zones, maps for finding fire extinguishers, and evacuation routes when their program arrives.

To provide for the safety of their residents, Soltis Center has developed a set of guidelines and policies for their campus community. These community rules and regulations will be provided to the program participants prior to occupancy in the community through the Education Abroad Office. Examples

are provided below for several prohibitions related to fire safety as defined in the community rules. Prohibited items and actions for Soltis Center include:

- Fireworks and other similar combustibles,
- Smoking materials or smoking devices including E-cigarettes,
- Grills (gas, charcoal, electric),
- Propane tanks,
- Portable electrical appliances,
- Tampering with any fire extinguisher or intentionally activating any fire extinguisher unnecessarily, and
- Storing of any flammable, hazardous, or explosive materials on the community grounds.

Smoking in Costa Rica is illegal in all public buildings, schools, universities, private working facilities, and in streets. At the Soltis Center some smoking is allowed in designated areas away from the facilities.

Soltis Center policies do not restrict candles/open flames in places intended to contain burning.

Management and staff receive in-class training once per year on fire prevention, safety, and control by the local certified firefighters. Management and staff also receive demonstrations regarding use of fire extinguishers and general response when a fire is reported.

Additional information is available in the Texas A&M University Safety Manual, Chapter 8 - Fire and Life Safety, and each facility is required to develop an emergency evacuation plan. Guidelines are available on the Environmental Health and Safety website referenced below. These plans outline procedures for notification of emergency personnel as well as evacuation procedures for building occupants.

Texas A&M University Fire and Life Safety Manual:

<https://ehs.tamu.edu/media/Files/Fire%20and%20Life/EHS%20FLS%20Fire%20and%20Life%20Safety-062223.pdf>

The following Texas A&M University Rules and SAPs have additional information.

- Fire and Life Safety Compliance
<https://rulesadmin.tamu.edu/rules/download/24.01.01.M7>
- Use of Pyrotechnics or Flame Effects
<https://rulesadmin.tamu.edu/rules/download/24.01.01.M7.01>
- Restrictions on Candles
<https://rulesadmin.tamu.edu/rules/download/24.01.01.M7.02>
- Safe Use of Outdoor Fires
<https://rulesadmin.tamu.edu/rules/download/24.01.01.M7.03>

Also, see <https://ehs.tamu.edu/home/training-opportunities/> or email Environmental Health and Safety at ehs@tamu.edu to register for or request specific training courses, including fire extinguisher training, laboratory safety, automated external defibrillator (CPR) training, etc.

Residence Facility Evacuation and Emergency Procedures

The Firefighters La Fortuna provides services to the Soltis Center and area residents for protection of life and property from fire and natural disasters. They maintain a standard of training which encompasses both a prompt response to emergencies and the safety of citizens.

Evacuation in Case of a Fire

Individuals are required to evacuate the building or area when instructed by an emergency authority, security, firefighter, or Soltis Center employee. When a fire is identified, the fire department is dispatched immediately and residential rooms are cleared by staff. Exit signs are available in the buildings. These are made of fluorescent material, which allows them to be visible at night even if the electricity is not working. Two emergency zones are available in the Center, one in front of the Academic Building and the other at the West end of the bungalow residential area. The emergency zones are identified with signs reading “zona de seguridad”. In the event of a fire, earthquake, chemical spill in the laboratory, volcano eruption, or other emergency, visitors must evacuate to one of these emergency zones. Individuals will be relocated to an area with the lowest risk, away from any threat, such as tall trees, power lines, or flooded areas. This will apply if the conditions allow.

If you are in your bungalow when you see a fire or receive fire evacuation notice:

- If possible, put out fire with the extinguishers that are located in each building of the Center. Turn off all the electricity and gas (used in the Soltis Center kitchen) coming into the burning building. Use extinguishers that are appropriate for the type for fire.
- Evacuate your bungalow/building at the nearest available exit.
- Prepare to evacuate by putting on shoes and coat if necessary. Feel the doorknob and the door. If they are hot, do not open the door. If they are cool, open slowly, if heat or heavy smoke rushes in, close the door immediately and remain inside.
- When leaving your room, be sure to take your key in case it is necessary to return to the room. Make sure to close the door tightly when evacuating.
- When exiting in smoky conditions keep your hand on the wall and crawl to the nearest exit. Always know more than one path out of your location and the number of doors between your room and the exit.
- Call 911 (Emergency Services) from a cell phone or emergency phone.
- Follow the directions provided for safe routes of evacuation.
- Notify Soltis Center on-site management immediately.
- Do not re-enter your bungalow until emergency personnel has declared it safe to do so.

If you are trapped in your bungalow:

- Keep the door closed and seal cracks with tape, clothes, sheets, etc.
- Call 911 to report that you are trapped and to report your location.
- Hang a light-colored piece of cloth out your window to signal firefighters.
- Stay low and stay calm as you wait for firefighters.

Keep in Mind:

- If you are inside a building with smoke, stay close to the ground
- If you come to a closed door and it is hot, it is possible that fire is on the other side, look for another exit

- Try to find out if anyone is inside the building
- The following defines the types of extinguishers available and when to use each:
 - A: pressure water (for solids, Wood, paper, clothing, etc.)
 - BC: contains CO₂ (for flammable substances, gasoline, alcohol, oil, and fires caused by electricity). These are distinguished by a thick black hose.
 - ABC: mix of chemical materials (for solids, flammable substances and electrical fires)
 - If there is computer equipment near an electrical fire, a extinguisher type BC must be used because the ABC consumes the equipment.

Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers can be found in wall-mounted cabinets in the hallways of the Soltis Center facility.

Residence Facility Evacuation Drills (Fire Drills)

Evacuation drills are conducted for Soltis Center once per year including the residential bungalow areas.

Description of Residence Facility Fire Safety Systems

Bungalow Residential Facilities – Fire Detection and Suppression Systems							
Residence Facility	Sprinkler System	Fire Alarm System	Smoke Detection	Fire Extinguisher Device	Evacuation Zone and Extinguisher Maps ¹	Standpipe System	Number of Drills Previous Calendar Year (2024)
Soltis Center	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	1

Residence bungalows are separate from each other and from the Academic building where lab spaces, classrooms and offices are. The cafeteria, including the dining area, kitchen and laundry are part of the academic building but located in lower story.

All bungalows have two in and out doors and maximum occupancy is four people. In the academic building, all labs and classrooms, cafeteria and kitchen have two in and our doors. In event of an evacuation, the open areas (parking lot or gardens) are within less than 15 feet distance.

Fire inspections occur at least annually and within local guidelines. All fire extinguishers are examined, emptied, and refilled annually by local contractors. Additionally, a drill or practice is performed each year.

Fire Safety Definitions (Department of Education)

On-campus Student Housing Facility: Any student housing facility that is owned or controlled by the institution, or is located on property that is owned or controlled by the institution, and is within the reasonably contiguous geographic area that makes up the campus is considered an on-campus student housing facility.

¹ Evacuation zone and extinguisher maps are provided to residents upon arrival.

Cause of fire: The factor or factors that give rise to a fire. The causal factor may be, but is not limited to, the result of an intentional or unintentional action, mechanical failure, or act of nature.

Fire: Any instance of open flame or other burning in a place not intended to contain the burning or in an uncontrolled manner.

Fire drill: A supervised practice of a mandatory evacuation of a building for a fire.

Fire-related injury: Any instance in which a person is injured as a result of a fire, including an injury sustained from a natural or accidental cause, while involved in fire control, attempting rescue, or escaping from the dangers of the fire. The term “person” may include students, employees, visitors, firefighters, or any other individuals.

Fire-related death: Any instance in which a person—

- (1) Is killed as a result of a fire, including death resulting from a natural or accidental cause while involved in fire control, attempting rescue, or escaping from the dangers of a fire; or
- (2) Dies within one year of injuries sustained as a result of the fire.

Fire safety system: Any mechanism or system related to the detection of a fire, the warning resulting from a fire, or the control of a fire. This may include sprinkler systems or other fire extinguishing systems, fire detection devices, stand-alone smoke alarms, devices that alert one to the presence of a fire, such as horns, bells, or strobe lights; smoke-control and reduction mechanisms; and fire doors and walls that reduce the spread of a fire.

Value of property damage: The estimated value of the loss of the structure and contents, in terms of the cost of replacement in like kind and quantity. This estimate should include contents damaged by fire, and related damages caused by smoke, water, and overhaul; however, it does not include indirect loss, such as business interruption.

On-Campus Housing Initiatives

No future improvements in fire safety are planned at the time of this report but proposals for installing fire alarm systems, hoses, and hydrants are under review.

2022 On-Campus Housing Facility Fire Statistics

Facility Name	Building Address	Total Fires in Each Facility	Fire Number	Cause of Fire	Number of Injuries That Required Treatment at a Medical Facility	Number of Deaths Related to a Fire	Value of Property Damage Caused by Fire
Soltis Center	San Juan de Penas Blancas, 600 m de la Escuela Emilio Castro	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

2023 On-Campus Housing Facility Fire Statistics

Facility Name	Building Address	Total Fires in Each Facility	Fire Number	Cause of Fire	Number of Injuries That Required Treatment at a Medical Facility	Number of Deaths Related to a Fire	Value of Property Damage Caused by Fire
Soltis Center	San Juan de Penas Blancas, 600 m de la Escuela Emilio Castro	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

2024 On-Campus Housing Facility Fire Statistics

Facility Name	Building Address	Total Fires in Each Facility	Fire Number	Cause of Fire	Number of Injuries That Required Treatment at a Medical Facility	Number of Deaths Related to a Fire	Value of Property Damage Caused by Fire
Soltis Center	San Juan de Penas Blancas, 600 m de la Escuela Emilio Castro	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Other Annual Fire Safety Reports and Annual Security Reports

Annual Security Reports and Annual Fire Safety Reports for other Texas A&M University locations are as follows and are available at the following Texas A&M University Division of Risk, Ethics, and Compliance website: <https://orec.tamu.edu/clery/annual-security-report/>.

Other Texas A&M University Annual Fire Safety Reports

Texas A&M University at College Station

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/CSAnnualFireReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University at Galveston

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/GalvestonAnnualFireReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Houston

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/HoustonAnnualFireReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Maritime Academy Training Ship

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/TAMUMaritimeAcademyAnnualFireReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Health Science Center Kingsville

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/KingsvilleAnnualFireReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Veterinary Education, Research, and Outreach

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/VEROAnnualFireReport.pdf>

Other Texas A&M University Annual Security Reports

Texas A&M University College Station

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/CSAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University O.D. Butler, Jr. Animal Science Complex and University Farm

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/UnivFarmAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University at Galveston

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/GalvestonAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University RELIS Campus

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/RELISAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University at Qatar

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/QatarAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Mays Business School at CityCentre

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/MaysAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University School of Law

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/LawAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Health Science Center Bryan

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/HSCBryanAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Dentistry Cooper Clinic Dallas

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/HSCCooperClinicAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Health Science Center Dallas

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/HSCDallasAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Houston

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/HoustonAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Health Science Center Kingsville

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/HSCKingsvilleAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Health Science Center Round Rock

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/HSCRRAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Higher Education Center at McAllen

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/HECMcAllenAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Maritime Academy Training Ship

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/TAMUMaritimeAcademyAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Bush School of Government & Public Service Washington, DC Teaching Site

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/DCAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Veterinary Education, Research, and Outreach

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/VEROAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University Soltis Center

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/SoltisSecurityReport.pdf>