

To the College Community:

College fire regulations and insurance require that there be no more than 250 persons at public events in the Commons Theatre and the Carriage Barn. This limit includes performers at events in the Carriage Barn; it does not include performers in the Theatre. Smoking is strictly prohibited at events in the Theater; in the Carriage Barn smoking is, at any time, allowed only on the balcony or in the middle room--never in the pit or the Gallery.

These rules have often been disregarded. From now on, Fire Wardens will be present to remind people of the rules. The Fire Department has purchased hand counters; when the 250 person limit has been reached, others won't be able to enter an event.

Almost all of the fires that have occurred on campus in recent years have been candle or wastebasket fires. Beginning next fall, all students are asked to use metal wastebaskets in their rooms. Fire Wardens will check their houses, and take suitable action on non-metal wastebaskets.

The danger of fire at Bennington is much greater than most of us think. In almost any building a small fire could easily become a major disaster. Please be aware of the danger and be careful, everywhere on campus. The prevention of fire here is everyone's job. Please do your part.

Sally Edwards
Fire Chief

