



# SAFETY ALERT

## Campus Incident—Fire

### RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

**Date:** December 2014  
**Category:** Fire Safety  
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### Description

A fire occurred in a paint booth while a student was attempting to make a glossy photograph appear older by igniting its edging. The photograph caught fire. The student blew on it in an attempt to extinguish the flames. Embers were pulled into the paint booth's filters, igniting them. The student exited the paint booth and pulled the fire alarm. The fire sprinkler system activated which extinguished most of the fire. NDFD arrived and extinguished the remaining flames. The fire did not extend beyond the paint booth.

### Causes

- The filter media ignited because a flame or ember from burning photographs contacted the filter media. The contact was caused when the student blew on the burning photographs to extinguish a flame.
- The filters burned rapidly because of the accumulation of paint. The paint accumulated over time due to the filters being infrequently changed.
- The student was not aware that open flames should not be used in a spray paint booth.

### Corrective Actions

- Develop safety training for all students and faculty who may use the spray paint booth and other equipment within the department.
- Implement schedule for changing out filters per manufacturer's recommendations.
- Determine if spray paint booth meets design requirements.
- Determine the best approach for fire extinguisher training for students.