

AU Residence Hall Sustains Slight Damage in Saturday Fire

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Alfred, NY - All residents of Openhym Residence Hall on the Alfred University campus escaped without injury when fire broke out in a third-floor room of the brick structure about 2:30 a.m. Oct. 10. Gerald Brody, vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, said a student draped a tee-shirt over a lamp to diffuse the light so it wouldn't wake her roommate. The student left the room again, and heat from the bulb ignited the shirt. The smoke detector went off, alerting residents to the fire. The roommate, who was asleep until then, was able to get out of the room safely, said Brody. Prompt action by Jennie Volforto, residence hall director, prevented more serious injuries and damage, said Brody. She shut the door to the room, which contained the flames until firefighters from the A.E. Crandall Hook and Ladder Co. in Alfred and the Alfred Station Volunteer Fire Dept. arrived. "The one room is in bad shape," said Brody, although the two residents were able to salvage some of their belongings. He anticipates that the two girls will be relocated, most likely to other rooms in the same residence hall. "Two or three" adjoining rooms sustained some smoke damage, and some rooms on the second floor suffered some water damage, he said, but he anticipates they will be usable by this evening. Firefighters kept the residents out of the building until the fire was extinguished. All students were allowed to return by 5 this morning. Openhym Residence Hall houses 140 freshman students.