

A Campus Fire Safety Message from



Homeland Security
and Emergency Services

Fire Prevention
and Control

Floor Lamp – Potential Hazard

A New York campus recently had two “close calls” involving a floor lamp similar to the one illustrated below. In both cases, heat from the bulbs caused the shades to melt. In one room, this caused a build-up of toxic fumes and the melted plastic from the shade burned a hole in the bedspread. The second incident involved a student who had turned on the lamp and, within 15 minutes, the shade melted and the heat began to turn a poster on the wall brown. Again - a very close call.

A concentrated search on this campus resulted in five additional lamps being found, each with at least some visible damage. Additionally, OFPC has been made aware of similar occurrences at other campuses.

OFPC has been in contact with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) who advise that they will be conducting an evaluation of the product in an effort to determine any potential actions they may initiate. Any college or university that identifies a similar case is asked to please notify their regional Bureau of Fire Prevention office of the so OFPC can share the information with CPSC.

In the interim, OFPC strongly recommends all colleges and universities immediately initiate a public awareness campaign to ensure students and staff are cognizant of the potential hazard.



SF110.1.2 Unsafe equipment. Unsafe equipment includes ... electrical wiring or other equipment on the premises or within the structure that is in such disrepair or condition that such equipment is a hazard to life, health, property or safety of the public or occupants of the premises or structure.