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From: Joelle Fishkin [mailto:JFishkin@iafc.org]

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To: undisclosed-recipients

Subject: Message to Fire & Life Safety Section Members

N.J. inspectors to check dorm sprinklers at 7 campuses

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TRENTON, N.J. -- State investigators this week will start visiting seven school campuses across New Jersey to ensure that they have complied with a mandate to install fire sprinkler systems in their dormitories.

New Jersey passed the country's first mandatory dormitory sprinkler law four years ago, after a fire at Seton Hall University killed three freshmen and injured 58 other people. The state's 47 residential colleges and boarding schools were given four years to install sprinklers over nearly 60,000 beds, and the projects had to be completed by July 31.

E.J. Miranda, a spokesman for the state Department of Community Affairs, told The Sunday Star-Ledger of Newark that the installation work was completed at 40 of the campuses earlier this year. He said inspectors would now go to the seven remaining schools _ including Bloomfield College and Princeton and Monmouth universities _ to make sure they met the deadline for finishing the work.

The state has been performing periodic inspections of schools to make sure that the work was progressing on schedule, and two small schools already have racked up thousands of dollars in fines for falling behind.

Rabbi Jacob Joseph School in Edison, a rabbinical college, has \$36,000 in outstanding fines. When the state last inspected the campus this spring, only 25 percent of its 120 dormitory beds were covered by sprinklers. School officials could not be reached for comment, but state officials said the school has indicated it would try to meet the deadline.

Meanwhile, the Garden State Academy _ a Seventh-day Adventist high school in Sussex County _ faces \$23,000 in fines for missing earlier deadlines. However, the school has since completed its sprinkler installation in its 112-bed boys and girls dorms, and the outstanding fines may be negotiable, Miranda said.

"Our purpose in imposing the penalties is to get compliance," Miranda said, adding that penalties "can be discussed" once the schools finish the installation work_

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***Attend the Fire & Life Safety Section Annual Meeting and Election
Saturday, August 14 from noon to 2:00pm
New Orleans Convention Center Room 395***