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Making Student Housing Safer (<http://refurbprojects-online.com/2013/01/fire-protection-for-student-accommodation/>)

A leading specialist student housing provider has demonstrated an exemplary approach to tenant safety by installing Kidde Fyrnetics hard-wired smoke, heat and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, and exceeding local authority requirements.

The London Student Group has been operating for 18 years in north London and provides students with high specification refurbished 5 and 6 bedroom shared HMO accommodation in traditional Victorian houses. Originally, they were fitted with Kidde's battery powered smoke and CO alarms but in each property these have now been replaced with a comprehensive system of Kidde Fyrnetics Slick® alarms using wireless interconnect. Every bedroom now has its own smoke alarm, as well as circulation areas, and there are heat alarms in communal living areas and kitchens. In addition, Kidde Fyrnetics hard-wired CO alarms with digital displays are installed on each floor.

London Student Group's CEO Rob Hunter said: "This project aimed to meet two objectives. We wanted to be the first multi-site 'off street' landlord in London to be accredited under the AFS Unipol Code, an accreditation scheme operated by Unipol – the main UK student housing charity – and Accommodation For Students – the main UK student accommodation search engine – which we have now achieved. We also acted in advance of an anticipated additional licensing scheme to be imposed by the local council under Section 56 of the Housing Act 2004, as we are always keen to stay ahead of the game.

"We chose Kidde for its reputation and, crucially, because of the high quality technical telephone support offered when we did our pre-ordering research. Our decision proved to be the right one and the products have been a success. They were easy to install and commission, and look great – fitting into our ethos of providing robust, quality housing and anticipating higher standards to come. The fast-fit system onto wireless bases also allows us flexibility to deal with any future changes."

The London Student Group is the LLAS/ UKLAP 'Best Landlord of the Year for Student Housing 2012' and was one of the first landlords in London to sign up to the AFS/Unipol Code, the first nationwide student landlord accreditation scheme.

More information on smoke, heat and CO alarms can be found in Kidde's guide - 'FIRE & CO SAFETY IN HOUSING' – available, alongside full product information, via: www.smoke-alarms.co.uk (<http://www.smoke-alarms.co.uk>)



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