

Clery Crime Alert

Arson

Columbia University Public Safety was informed of an arson incident that occurred on July 18, 2026, at approximately 8:40 AM on Amsterdam Ave and West 119th St. The individual ignited a fire causing damage to a Citi bike that was docked at this location. At the time, the individual was wearing a bright pink windbreaker-type jacket. The individual then left the scene on foot walking eastbound on West 119th St towards Morningside Drive.

If you have any additional information about this incident, please contact Investigator Ken Finnegan at 212-854-3211 and reference report number 26-002514.

Harm Reduction Strategies:

- No one is ever responsible for a crime committed against them. The responsibility lies entirely with the perpetrator. If something happens, we encourage you to report it. Reporting helps protect others and ensures you can access support and services. Report the incident to the Department of Public Safety at
 - Morningside: 212-854-5555
 - Manhattanville: 212-853-3333
 - Medical Center: 212-305-7979
- Often, where there is smoke, there is fire. When you see or smell smoke, call 911 and report the incident to CU Public Safety immediately, stating that you see or smell smoke/fire.
- Do not try to extinguish an uncontrolled fire yourself as this can often result in further injury.
- Remember, do not assume a fire alarm is a drill or test. All building alarm systems are tested as required by law, but these tests are announced in advance. Treat every alarm as an emergency unless you have received advance notification stating otherwise.
- Exit the building immediately. Feel doors before opening them to be sure that there is no fire danger on the other side. If you must enter a smoke-filled room or hallway, cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth and crawl, keeping your head near the floor, to the nearest exit.

Disclaimer: Clery Crime Alerts (Timely Warning Notifications) are distributed pursuant to the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act. Columbia University is required to alert the campus community when certain crimes occur in our Clery Act defined campuses that represent a serious or continuous threat to the community. For additional information, please visit our Clery Act website or email ps-compliance@columbia.edu