



Tenant Fire Safety

A Fact Sheet on Fire Safety for Tenants of Multi-Family Buildings

Apartment and multi-family housing communities are a popular choice for many families today. This fact sheet highlights the key fire-safety concerns that affect you as a tenant. Prevention and planning is the key to protecting your family and your neighbors. Be prepared...Be Fire Safe!!

Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms are installed for your protection.
- **NEVER** tamper with them or remove the battery.
- Test the smoke alarm regularly to ensure proper operation.
- Let the property or building manager know right away if your smoke alarm is not functioning properly or is in need of replacement.

Cooking Safety

- Unattended cooking is the #1 cause of residential fires.
- If the alarm goes off from cooking, open a door or window. **Do not attempt to disable the smoke alarm!!**
- Don't leave food unattended on the stove. If you must leave the kitchen, take a wooden spoon or potholder as a reminder.
- Wear short or close fitting sleeves and an apron to avoid catching clothes on fire.
- When cooking, keep a pot lid close by. In case of a pan fire, use the lid to smother the fire.
- Clean the stove and toaster regularly to avoid grease and crumb buildup.
- Use potholders, not towels, to handle hot pans and dishes.

Heating Safety

- Keep everything at least one foot from any heat source.
- Unplug electrical appliances and heaters when not using them.
- Never hang clothes near a heater to dry them.
- Don't leave portable heaters alone or go to sleep while they are on.
- Make sure curtains hang well away from heat sources.
- **DON'T USE THE OVEN TO HEAT YOUR HOME!!!**

Safe Smoking

- Never smoke in bed or while lying on the couch.
- Smoke only when alert, never when tired or drowsy.
- Use a large, sturdy ashtray or purchase a special "safety ashtray".
- Always empty ashtrays into a non-burnable container, such as a metal garbage can.

Using Candles

- Make sure candles are placed in a sturdy holder
- Keep candles at least 3 feet from anything flammable.
- **ALWAYS BLOW OUT** candles before leaving your apartment or going to sleep.

Escape Planning

- Create an escape plan with your family and practice it.
- Know how to get to all exits.
- In the event of a fire, get out and **STAY** out.
- Once outside have a pre-determined meeting place.

Fire Doors

- Doors to basements, laundry and furnace rooms are "fire doors" that must be closed at all times (never propped open).
- Keep in mind your main entry door may be a "fire door" as well.
- These doors are meant to inhibit the spread of smoke and fire.
- Keeping them closed during a fire saves lives and property.

Be Prepared

- Know where fire alarm pull stations and the closet fire extinguishers are located.
- Leave hallways clear of clutter (garbage bags, bicycles, etc.) In the event of a fire, the hallway may be your path to safety.
- Remember your escape plan and the location of your meeting place.