

# FIRE SAFETY

## REMINDERS & TIPS



*Every 15 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States. By paying careful attention to these issues, each of us can share the responsibility of keeping our homes safe from fire.*

### **Smoking Safety**

- Fires started by smoking materials cause more fatalities than any other type of fire.
- Put out all smoking materials in the proper container before you walk away.
- DO NOT put cigarettes out in potted plants. Potting soil and fertilizer are combustible materials.
- Never smoke in bed or when feeling drowsy and keep ashtrays off of sofas or chairs.
- Use deep ashtrays and soak ashes in water before disposal.
- Don't leave matches, lighters, cigarettes, cigars or pipes unattended or where children can reach them.
- Butt Buckets: If you smoke or have friends or family members who do, stop into the Rental Office and pick up a FREE "Butt Bucket" for your home, so you're always prepared.

### **Cooking Safety**

- In the United States, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Over a third of all fires in multi-residential buildings start in the kitchen.
- Do not leave cooking unattended on the stove.
- Keep the stove and oven clean. Do not allow grease to build up.
- If a fire starts in a pan, turn off the stove and carefully cover the pan with a lid or another pan. DO NOT throw water on the fire!
- Keep items that can catch fire—such as dish towels, paper or plastic bags—at least three feet away from the stove top.
- Keep children and pets away from the stove while cooking, keep loose-fitting clothing away from hot burners, and never use the stove or oven to heat your home.



## Heating Safety

- Fires caused by furniture, bedding, and other materials placed too close to baseboard heaters and portable heaters are the most common types of heating-related residential fires. Do not put anything too close to any type of heater.
- The use of portable heaters is not advised.
- Never use your oven to provide additional heat.
- Never permit any item to drape across heaters.
- Please call the Rental Office if not getting sufficient heat.

## Clothes Dryer Safety

- Each year, there are around 12,700 clothes dryer fires in residential buildings in the U.S. Failure to clean the lint screen is the leading factor contributing to clothes dryer fires in apartment buildings.
- Always remove lint from trap before using the clothes dryer.
- Never put rubber, plastic, foam or any materials that made contact with flammable liquids in the dryer even if previously washed.
- Never leave dryer running while sleeping or out of the home.

## Candle Safety

- The most common mistake people make when using candles is placing them near combustible materials (such as papers, clothing, bedding).
- Always keep burning candles in sight. Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or before going to sleep.
- Always use a candleholder specifically designed for candle use. The holder should be heat resistant, sturdy and large enough to contain any drips or melted wax.
- Place lighted candles where they won't be knocked over by children, pets or anyone else.
- Battery operated candles are a safe option.



## Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors can save lives! Please check the smoke detector(s) in your apartment monthly to make sure they are working properly:

- Press down on the small button on the face of the detector for a few seconds (up to 10) until the alarm sounds.
- If the alarm doesn't sound, stop by the Rental Office to pick up new batteries or submit a maintenance request and we will replace the batteries or perform the necessary repairs.
- It is possible for a detector to start to malfunction, and occasionally emit short beeps. When this happens, call the Rental Office to have it replaced.
- The hall smoke detector is hardwired into the electrical system in your apartment. Some detectors have a battery backup in them as well and the battery must be replaced approximately once a year.