

Fire Prevention Tips

* Clean dryer vents frequently and empty lint screens after each load. In case of fire, leave the dryer closed, unplug it, and call 911 immediately.

* Consider installing a carbon monoxide detector if you use natural gas in your home to detect any leaks or problems with your system.

* Fire extinguishers are only reliable for one year. They can be disposed of in your normal trash safely. Either attach your receipt, or write the purchase date on the extinguisher to remind you when it needs to be replaced.

* Faulty heating equipment plays a part in over 40% of winter home fires. You can help prevent fires by safely maintaining and operating your furnace, or space heater. Have a qualified technician inspect your furnace, and water heater every year.

* Never place flammable liquids or combustible items in AC/heater closets or near breaker boxes.

* Never leave cooking unattended. If a fire should occur in the oven, leave the door closed and turn off the heat. When cooking on the stovetop always have the proper size lid available to smother the fire. A 10abc fire extinguisher is a must for every kitchen. The use of baking soda, salt, or water may spread the fire.

* Never install a double-cylinder deadbolt lock on your exit doors. They require a key to unlock from the inside. When you need to exit in a hurry, this type of lock can be deadly.

* Replace any cord that is cracked or frayed. Never place electrical cords under carpets, or attach to walls or ceilings.

* Smoke alarms should be placed in hallways outside bedrooms, and also inside the bedrooms to insure that sleeping residents are alerted in case of fire. A new law has taken effect in 2012 that requires that all rental property to have smoke detectors both inside and outside bedrooms.

* Batteries in smoke detectors should be replaced every year. A good recommendation is to change your batteries every time you change your clocks for daylight savings. Or another way is on Patriot Day (September 11) is a good day to change your batteries every year.

* Store all matches and lighters up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.

* Store flammable liquids like gasoline, kerosene, and paint thinner in approved containers outside of your living quarters, either in the garage or a portable