

In Case of a Fire:

1. Get out!
2. Call 911!
3. Wait for help to arrive!

When the fire alarms sounds, get out right away.
Never go back in a burning building.

If you're trapped on an upper floor, keep your doors closed, open a window and yell for help.

Only use a fire extinguisher if the fire is small and contained and you know how to properly use it.
Always keep your back to an exit and when in doubt, get out!



Remember, know at least two ways out of every room... and plan and practice your escape plan at least twice a year!



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FIRE PREVENTION

For Tenants

A guide to fire safety and
renter's responsibilities



Every year, Springfield Firefighters respond to nearly 500 residential fires. More than 65% of those occur in rental properties. The Springfield Fire Department, in cooperation with your landlord or property owner, created this guide to help protect you and your neighbors from a devastating fire.

Know the facts:

- Careless smoking is the number one cause of residential fires in Springfield.
- A fire can double in size every 30 seconds.
- In the United States, one person dies in a house fire about every 3 hours.

Don't be a victim!



Common Hazards

BBQ Grills

- If you live in an apartment building that has 3 or more apartments and is unsprinklered, you are prohibited from operating an open-flame cooking device, such as a gas or charcoal grill on a combustible balcony or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

Careless Smoking

- Use a sturdy ashtray or can filled with sand to collect ashes. Do not use a flammable container such as Tupperware and never use a potted plant. Potting soil contains combustible materials.
- Ashtrays should be set on something sturdy and hard to ignite, like a table.
- Put it out. The cigarette needs to be *completely* stubbed out in the ashtray.
- Do not let cigarette butts pile up on top of one another. Empty your ashtray often by first soaking the cigarette butts in water. NEVER toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash.
- If you are drowsy, put it out. Fires caused by cigarettes often start on or next to the victim – in bed, on a sofa or in the trash.
- Never smoke while using oxygen!

Cooking Safety

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- If you choose to try and put out the fire yourself, be sure everyone else is evacuating and someone has called 911.

Other Home Hazards

- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Avoid use of extension cords, if possible.
- If you use a space heater, keep it at least 3' from anything that can burn and never power it with an extension cord.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Keep furnace/water heater closet free of storage.
- Clean your dryer lint trap after each use.
- Avoid use of candles.
- Keep exits, stairways and hallways clear of all materials.

Smoke Alarms

- According to city ordinance your landlord or property owner is *required* to install a smoke alarm in your rental unit.
- You are required to maintain the alarm. It is against fire code to remove or tamper with the alarm.
- Smoke alarm batteries should be replaced at least once a year.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years. If you think your smoke alarm may be older than 10 years old, contact your landlord or property owner.



Be aware! Failure to follow these guidelines could be a violation of local ordinances and fire codes which may result in the issuance of a citation.