



FIRE PREVENTION

For Tenants

A guide to fire safety and renter's responsibilities

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 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!

BBQ Grills

- If you live in an apartment building that has 3 or more apartments and has no sprinklers, 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.

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 so people can escape in an emergency.



Every year, Springfield Firefighters respond to nearly 500 residential fires. More than 65% of those occur in rental properties.

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.

In Case of a Fire:

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

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



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.

(417) 864-1500
830 N. Boonville Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802
www.springfieldmo.gov/fire