



Fire Prevention Safety Tips for Apartments

People generally feel safest at home. Last year, the number of residential (single family dwellings, apartments and mobile homes) fires led all reported structure fires. Residential properties led again for fire deaths.

The three leading fire causes are: Cooking, Heating, and Incendiary. *New Hope and Crystals leading fire causes are:* Cooking, Smoking and Candles.

So how safe is your home? We would like to take a moment to cover some fire safety tips.

- Get everyone out and close the door behind you, pull the fire alarm and call 911 from another building or a cell phone.
- Always know two ways out of every building in case smoke and fire ends up blocking one of the exits.
- Know the location of the closest fire extinguisher and how to use it.
- Never leave anything cooking on the stove unattended. Should you have a grease fire, turn off stove and smother the fire by covering the pan or closing the oven. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire, water will only spread the fire. Be careful when using grease. Never walk away when heating up grease in a pan. Grease will ignite and catch fire very fast if not careful.
- Test your smoke detector every month. Should your smoke detector not work properly report this to the apartment manager.
- Never disable your smoke detector. Any person disabling the smoke detector in their dwelling or a smoke detector for the building fire alarm system can be charged for a misdemeanor.
- Never store or use barbecue grills/electric grills or a barbecue torch on your apartment balcony or patios that are located below balconies. No flammable liquids are allowed on the balconies. If caught you will get citation by the Fire Inspectors.
- Keep lighters and matches out of reach of children.
- Dispose of smoking materials properly. Place them in a deep non-combustible container with a small amount of water at the bottom.
- Do not overload your electrical outlets with extension cords and multi-plug adapters.

We hope these safety tips will help keep you and your loved ones safe from fire. Should you have any questions about fire safety please contact one of the fire inspectors at West Metro Fire Rescue 763-537-2323.

Remember – the best way to put out a fire is not to have one!