

Fire Safety Tips for Apartments

- 1. Test your smoke alarm, and keep it in working condition.**
State Fire Code requires working smoke alarms in the kitchen, corridors between bedrooms, and within Portland city limits, a smoke alarm in every bedroom. Remember to check the batteries once a month, and replace the batteries once a year.
- 2. Develop a fire escape plan and practice it.**
Practice it. Know at least two ways to get out of your apartment. Pick a family meeting place outside the apartment building. Don't use elevators (they may take you right into the fire.)
- 3. Make a 72 hour disaster survival kit, maintain it, and keep it close by.**
Non-perishable food, drinking water, medications, first aid kit, battery operated radio, extra batteries, etc.
- 4. Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.**
A significant number of fires are started by juveniles. Children who have access to matches and lighters can be a deadly combination.
- 5. Stop, Drop, and Roll if your clothes catch on fire.**
- 6. Don't park in front of fire hydrants and don't park in fire lanes.**
Respecting the fire restrictions may literally save your life. When friends visit, be sure to remind them to park only in appropriate parking areas.
- 7. Never leave smoking materials burning.**
Never smoke in bed. In 2001, the most common cause of apartment fires was careless disposal of smoking materials.
- 8. Don't run extension cords under carpets or from unit-to-unit.**
They can easily overheat. Extension cords are for temporary use only. They are not to be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.
- 9. Get acquainted with the elderly folks in your building.**
If there's a fire, they may have extra difficulty getting out. You may be able to help them, or you can direct firefighters to the elderly person's apartment.
- 10. Renters Insurance - What does it cover and is it worth it?**
Most individuals are also unaware that the landlord's fire insurance policy **does not cover** any personal possessions or temporary relocation costs, regardless of where the fire starts. A fire may not start in your apartment unit, but it may completely destroy everything you own. In addition to fire damage, your home may be untenable due to smoke and water damage, which might leave you scrambling to find a new place to live. Average rates for rental insurance are only from \$9-\$11 a month. **"For the cost of four grande mochas or three packs of cigarettes, you and your possessions can be covered if damaged in the event of a fire.**