TENANT FIRE PREVENTION GUIDE

(Emergency Call 911)



ahrma assisted housing risk management association

TENANT FIRE PREVENTION GUIDE

This tenant fire prevention guide has been developed to educate you on fire hazards and precautions that can be taken to prevent a fire. Tenants should read this guide and keep a copy of it for future reference. If you have any questions please contact Management.

Children Playing with Matches or Lighters

Children are curious about fire. That curiosity can lead to tragedy. Here are some tips to keep your home safe from fire.

- **Supervise young children closely. Do not leave them alone even for short periods.**
- **Keep matches and lighters in a secured drawer or cabinet.**
- **Check under beds and in closets for evidence your child may be playing with fire.**
- **Teach children that fire is a tool, not a toy.**
- **Teach children the nature of fire. It is FAST, HOT, DARK, and DEADLY!**
- **Practice your home fire escape plan with your children and designate a meeting place outside.**
- **Teach children not to hide from firefighters, to get out quickly, stay out, and call for help from another location.**
- **Show children how to crawl low on the floor below the smoke.**
- **Demonstrate how to stop, drop to the ground and roll if their clothes catch fire.**
- **Test all smoke alarms frequently and change the batteries at least annually.**







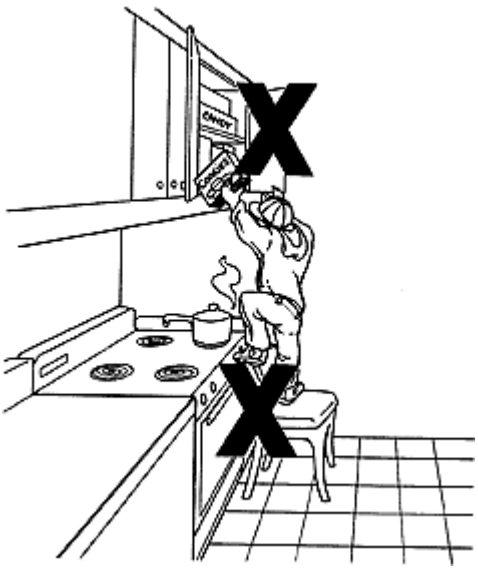
Kitchen Safety

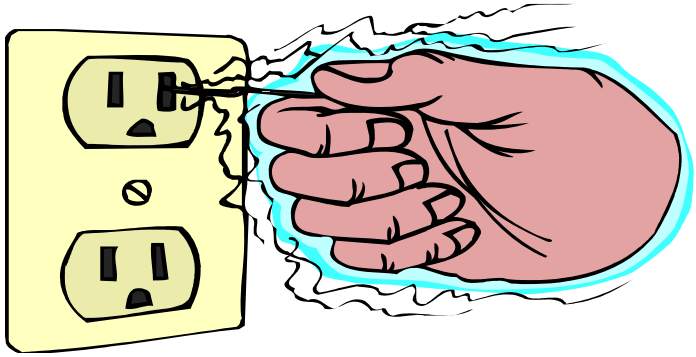
Cooking fires are a leading cause of home fires. The majority of cooking fires start when common household items ignite (i.e. wall coverings, paper or plastic bags, curtains, etc.). Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires, accounting for nearly half of all home kitchen fires. Here are some related safety rules.



- **Never leave a stovetop unattended while cooking and keep a close eye on food cooking in the oven.**
- **Always use a timer while cooking.**
- **Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (i.e. potholders, towels, drapes and food packaging).**
- **Clean the exhaust hood and area around the stove regularly and wipe up spilled grease as soon as the surface of the stove is cool.**
- **Keep children and pets away from cooking areas by creating a three-foot "kid-free zone" around the stove.**

- **Turn pot handles away from stove front to avoid being bumped or grabbed by children.**
- **If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding a lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool. Never put water on a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire. It can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen and spread the fire.**
- **If there is an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed to prevent it from burning you and spreading.**
- **If there is a microwave fire, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave if safe to do so.**



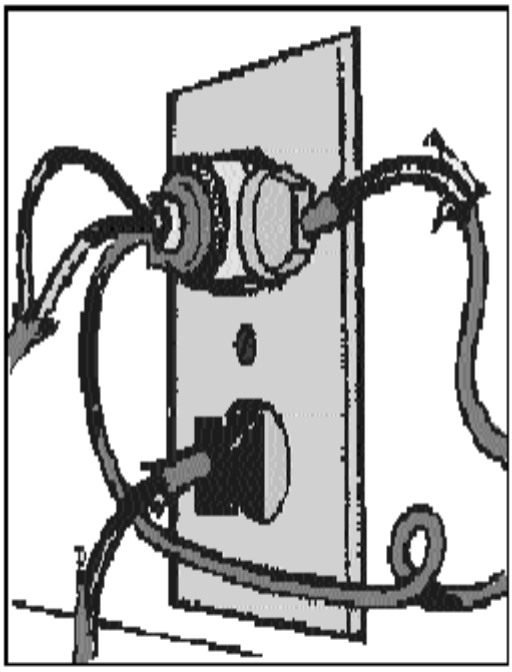


Electrical Safety

Electrical malfunctions can cause home fires. Here are some related safety tips.

- **Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.**
- **Using extension cords is discouraged. If you absolutely need one, do not run it across surfaces where people walk.**
- **In homes with small children, electrical outlets should have plastic safety covers.**
- **Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one appliance into each outlet at a time.**
- **If outlets or switches feel warm, turn off the breaker and call maintenance.**
- **Avoid use of adapters that allow more devices to be plugged into an outlet than intended.**
- **Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.**
- **Allow air space around ALL devices using electricity to prevent overheating. This includes TVs, game consoles, lamps, cell phones, etc.**

Don't let an Octopus
loose in your house!

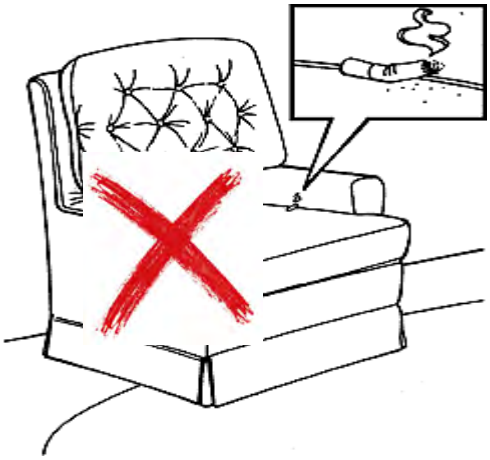


Smoking Material Related Fires

Home fires are often caused by smoking materials, particularly when carelessly disposed of. Common sources of ignition are mattresses, bedding, and upholstered furniture. Here are some smoking material related safety tips.

- **If smoking is prohibited in your unit, do not smoke in your unit.**
- **Do not smoke or have an open flame around oxygen tanks.**
- **Keep smoking materials away from anything that can burn (i.e., mattresses, bedding, upholstered furniture, draperies, etc.).**
- **Never smoke in bed.**
- **Use large, deep, non-tip ashtrays to prevent ashes from spilling onto furniture and check them frequently. Do not rest ashtrays on sofas or chairs.**
- **Completely douse butts and ashes with water before throwing away to prevent smoldering.**





Candle Safety

On average, 20 home candle fires are reported each day. To prevent fires caused by candles follow these tips.

- **Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.**
- **Keep candles away from items that can catch fire (e.g. clothing, books, paper, curtains, Christmas trees, flammable decorations).**
- **Use candleholders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn and are large enough to collect dripping wax.**
- **Don't place lit candles in windows where blinds and curtains can close over them.**
- **Place candleholders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface and do not use candles in a place where they could be knocked over by children or pets.**
- **Keep out of reach of children.**
- **Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle. A child should not sleep in a room with a lit candle.**
- **Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.**
- **Store candles, matches and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.**



Space Heaters

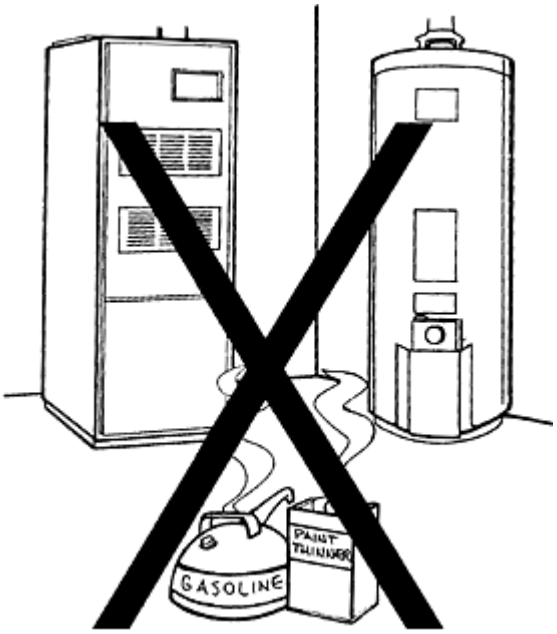
Portable space heaters are a major cause of fire during winter months. Portable space heaters are not allowed on most premises. If your home is not adequately heated contact management right away.

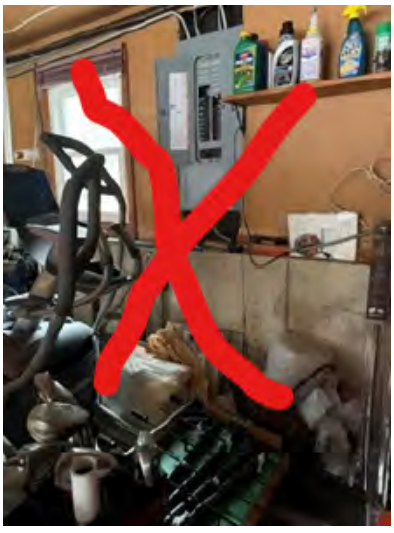


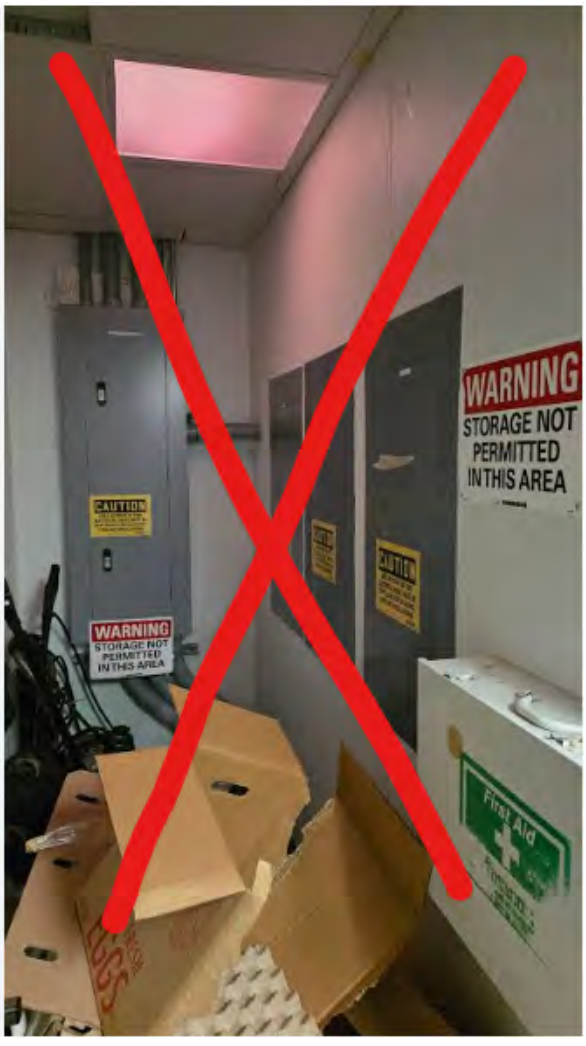
Utility/Laundry Rooms

Fires can start in rooms where furnaces, hot water heaters, and clothes washers/dryers are kept. Gas powered equipment has pilot lights that can ignite combustible materials. Follow these tips to prevent fires in these locations.

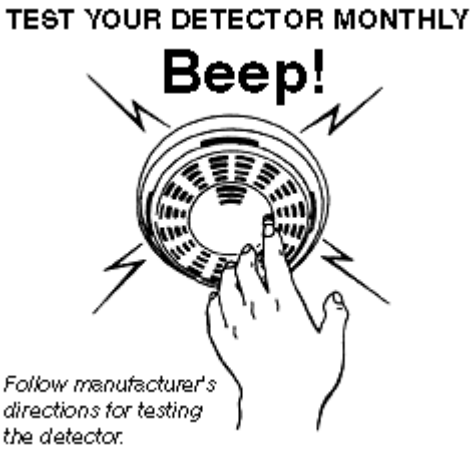
- **Keep at least an 18-inch clearance around electrical panels, furnaces, hot water heaters and clothes washers/dryers.**
- **Do not store flammable chemicals, such as gasoline and paints, in utility rooms. Vapors from flammable substances can cause an explosion.**
- **Clean lint traps in clothes dryers after every use and remove built up lint/debris from behind clothes dryers.**
- **Never leave home with the clothes dryer running.**
- **If you smell natural gas leave the premises immediately. Open windows and doors as you go. Don't use matches, appliances, electric switches or phones. Once outside, call the gas company, and do not go back inside until the gas company says it's safe.**



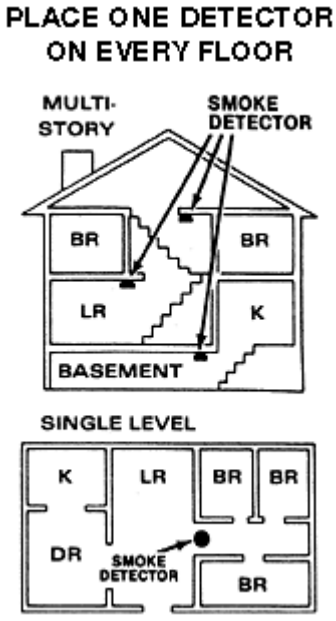




Smoke Alarms: Smoke is responsible for three out of four fire-related deaths. Working smoke alarms in a home reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by 60%. Nearly 60% of fire-related deaths occur in homes with either no working smoke alarms or no smoke alarms. To reduce the chance of injury due to smoke follow these rules.

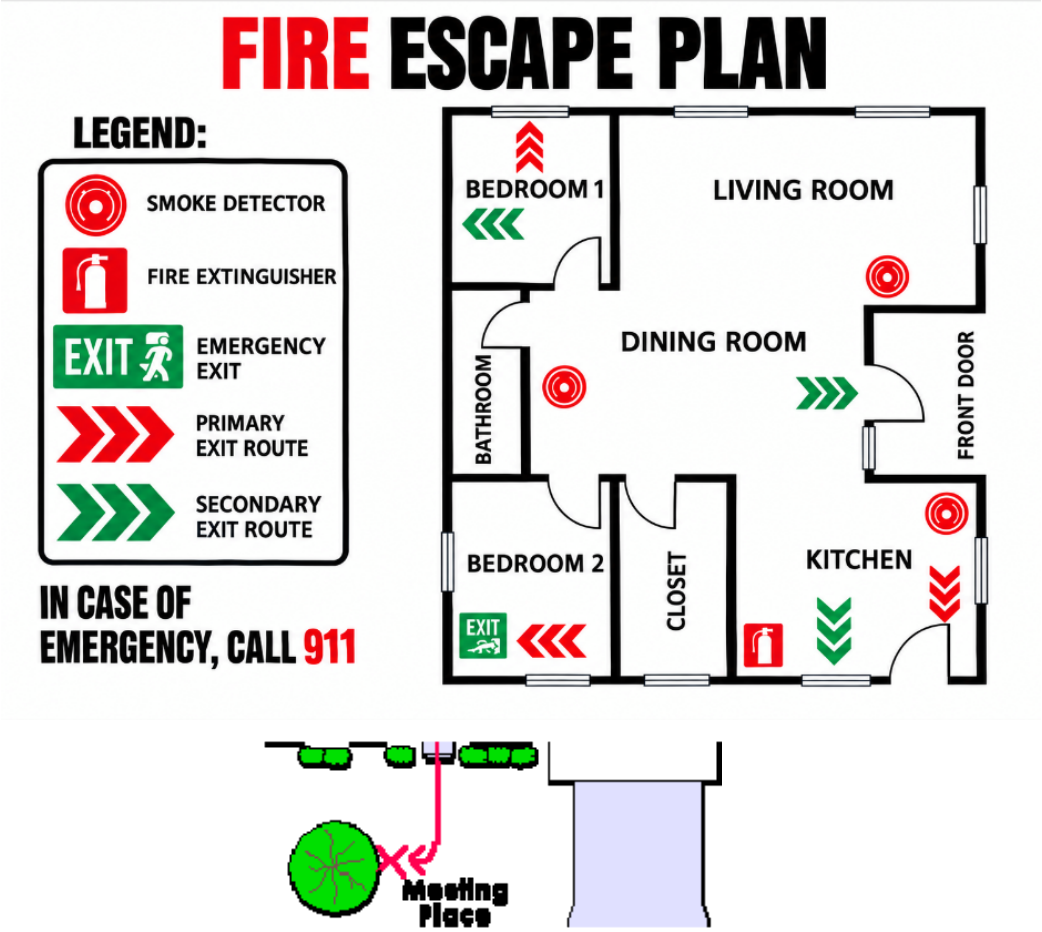


- **Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.**
- **Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.**
- **Test all smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button**
- **Keep smoke alarms dust free. Replace batteries with new ones at least once a year or sooner if the alarm makes a chirping sound.**
- **If you have a hard wired smoke alarm (no battery needed) be sure that the signal light is blinking. This tells you that the alarm is active.**
- **Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they don't respond when tested.**



Exit Plan

Having one is essential. Practicing the plan is crucial.



- **Prepare a floor plan of your residence showing at least two ways out of each room. Make sure bedroom windows are not blocked by furniture.**
- **Be fully prepared for a real fire! When a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. Once you're out, stay out – leave the fire fighting to the professionals!**
- **Set a fixed location outside a safe distance from the home where family members know to gather for a head count.**
- **Stay together and away from the fire. Call 911 from another location.**
- **If you live in an apartment building, make sure you understand the building's evacuation plan. In case of a fire, use the stairs, never the elevator.**

REVIEW THESE TIPS REGULARLY. FIRE CAN GROW AND SPREAD QUICKLY THROUGH YOUR HOME. YOUR ACTIONS CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.