

Dighton Housing Authority
Emergency Pull Cords Policy

Apartments with Emergency Pull Cords (Leased prior to February 14, 2017):

Most apartments rented prior to February 14, 2017 have an emergency pull cord in the bathroom and bedroom. If you have an emergency and cannot get to a phone, pulling the cord will sound an alarm outside your living room door. These alarms are NOT connected to the fire or police department. They are designed to alert your neighbors that you have an emergency and unlocks your living room door. Apartments with Emergency Pull Cords must keep the string hanging down towards the floor (not tied up) and nothing (furniture, equipment, etc.) can block the Emergency Pull Cords.

If you go to help a neighbor whose alarm is sounding, DO NOT try to move them. Call 911 for help.

Apartment without Emergency Pull Cords (most Leased after February 14, 2017): All apartments Leased after February 14, 2017 are Leased without Emergency Pull Cords. The reason for this is on January 24, 2017 the Department of Housing & Development (DHCD) released Public Housing Notice: 2017-03. This notice states that DHCD recommends all Local Housing Authorities decommission all emergency pull cord systems that DO NOT connect to an emergency response system at time of unit turnover or major unit modernization. According to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs these types of pull cords may actually create a false sense of security for residents who assume the activation of the pull cord will result in someone coming to assist them. On February 14, 2017 the Board of Commissioners of the Dighton Housing Authority reviewed, discussed, and motioned to have all Emergency Pull Cord Systems removed at time of unit turnover.

Approved by Board Action at its Tuesday, August 22, 2018 meeting.