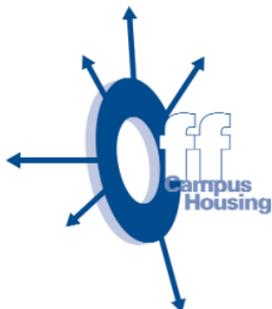




What Renters Should Know About Fire Safety



University of Michigan

Smoke Detectors Save Lives

Smoke detectors warn you of a fire in time for you to escape, so do not ignore them. The Housing Code in Ann Arbor requires that landlords provide detectors and determines their placement. Do not remove the batteries for any other use, or if you are annoyed by the alarm (when cooking, for example). Be sure to test your smoke detectors monthly.

Space Heaters Are A Fire-Safety Hazard

Portable space heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything potentially flammable. Never leave space heaters on when you leave home or go to bed. Because it is expensive, inefficient, and dangerous to heat with space heaters, many landlords specifically forbid their use. Instead, turn up the furnace thermostat (or ask your landlord to do so) and dress appropriately for the weather.

If You Smell Gas

Gas leaks are a serious fire safety hazard. If you smell gas, avoid any open flames. Do not turn electrical switches on or off, or light matches or cigarettes. Open windows and doors to air out your home, then get out. Call your gas utility supplier and/or the fire department from an outside phone and let them know that there is a gas leak. Do not reenter your home until your utility supplier has checked and fixed the problem.

Use Electricity Safely

If an appliance starts smoking, has an unusual smell, or causes a fuse to blow, unplug it immediately. It may be malfunctioning and should be repaired. Call your landlord if you have questions or need assistance with malfunctioning items in your rental unit. Replace any frayed or cracked electrical cords. Take care not to overload outlets with multiple outlet adapters and extension cords. Avoid running cords under carpets or rugs. Use only the proper size fuses. Remember that a blown fuse is a warning the electrical system is overloaded or an appliance is malfunctioning.

Cooking Precautions

Never leave cooking unattended. Do not put papers, boxes, plastic or anything other than cookware on gas/electric burners and be cautious when wearing loose fitting clothing around the burners. Many fires have started from overheated grease, because heat can cause the grease to burst into flame. If this happens, carefully slide a lid over the fire and turn off the burner. Do not use water on grease or electrical fires. Never put foils or other metals in microwave ovens.

Take Care When Smoking

Carelessly discarded cigarettes are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. Never smoke in bed or while you are drowsy, because dropped embers may start fires. Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers and do not empty them until absolutely certain that any smoking embers have been thoroughly extinguished.

Candles Are an Open Flame

While candles create a special mood in the home, they should be used with caution and respect. Place candles on sturdy holders that will not tip or burn and position them far away from curtains and other flammable items. Never leave burning candles unattended. In emergencies such as power outages, use flashlights, which are safer and more dependable than candles. Candles should be used for strictly ornamental purposes in the home.

Fire Extinguishers Are A Handy Precaution

Keep a small, inexpensive fire extinguisher on hand at all times. Most apartment buildings are equipped with hallway fire extinguishers, but it is a good idea to invest in your own personal one. An "ABC" dry chemical extinguisher can be used on any kind of fire. These can be purchased at Meijer, Target, or most hardware stores.

Protecting Personal Belongings

It is a good idea to obtain renter's insurance, if belongings are

not already covered by your parent's insurance policy, because landlord's insurance will not usually reimburse tenant(s) for personal property destroyed by fire or other hazards. Renter's insurance can be easily obtained from many local insurance agencies and is relatively inexpensive.

In Case of Fire

Plan and practice two escapes out of every room, in preparation for any emergency. If your clothes catch on fire, you must immediately STOP, DROP and ROLL. If you must escape through smoke, crawl to the nearest safe exit. Get out immediately, do not stop for personal items or to call for help. Get to a safe location outside the building, then call 911 if you are able. Notify others as you leave by yelling, "FIRE!" and knocking on doors as you leave.

Commonly Used Items

Other commonly used items in the home can be fire hazards. A grill can be a fire hazard, for example. Do not place grills on wooden porches or under overhangs, where fires may start. Halogen lamps also become a fire hazard when left unattended near flammable objects.

For any Emergency, call 911

Ann Arbor Police Department

Non-Emergency: (734) 994-2911

Front Desk: (734) 994-2875

E-mail: police@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us

www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/framed/police

Ann Arbor Fire Department

Non-Emergency: (734) 994-2772

www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/framed/fire

Ann Arbor Building Department, Housing Inspection Bureau

Phone: (734) 994-2678

Ann Arbor City Hall

www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/framed/bldg/default.html



Safety Tips

for House & Apartment Residents



University of Michigan

Here are a few common-sense safety tips that will help residents of apartment buildings keep themselves and their belongings secure:

- A single woman should never place her full name on the mailbox or apartment directory. Rather than using, "Miss," "Mrs." or "Ms.," the first and middle initials should be used.
- Keep the outer main doors locked. Cooperate with other tenants to see that the door is not "buzzed" open until the person requesting entrance is properly identified.
- You have the right to ask your landlord to change/rekey locks in your unit when you move in. You never know who may still have a key. Make sure to speak to your apartment manager about this when you move in.
- Never give keys to delivery persons or repair personnel.
- Never admit strangers to your apartment. Refer sale, service and repair personnel, as well as information seekers to the building manager.
- Don't open your door unless you know for sure who is knocking. A peephole is required in all doors that don't have a window or sidelight. Use it!
- Develop a "buddy" system with your neighbors. Be alert for suspicious-looking strangers, sounds or actions in the hallways, and notify the building superintendent or police at once.
- A supplemental security device may be required by the

City of Ann Arbor's Housing Code to be placed on windows by the landlord that open onto fire escapes, and on doors that open onto terraces, porches and balconies. Sliding glass doors should be secured with a safety bar, which can be placed in the door track to prevent the door from being forced open.

- Keep few valuables in your apartment. Money, jewelry and furs are safer in a storage vault or safe deposit box.
- Keep your mailbox empty. If you are away, make arrangements with a neighbor or the building manager to have your mail and any papers removed from the box. You may request that the post office hold your mail for you.
- Don't let newspapers pile up in front of your door. Arrange to have them taken inside or pushed under your door. (This is especially important if the newspaper is delivered after you leave in the morning or before your return in the evening.)
- Leave a light on and a radio playing quietly when you go out. This will give the impression that someone is home. Lights may be put on an inexpensive timer to go on while you are away.
- Don't enter or leave your building if you notice strangers loitering in the entranceway. Don't hold the door open or allow others to follow you inside, unless they live in the building or have permission to enter from a tenant.
- Know the location of all emergency exits.
- As you enter or leave, make sure the lobby door is closed behind you.

- When walking home late at night, use well-lit streets. Walk in the center of the sidewalk, away from bushes, doorways and parked cars or anywhere that an attacker could hide. Have a friend walk you home or call SafeWALK at 763-WALK.
- Let friends or family know when you should be home. If you have a cell phone, call someone to talk to until you are inside your unit.

Safety Contacts

Department of Public Safety

Dispatch: (734) 763-1131

Front Desk: (734) 763-3434

S.A.F.E.Walk: (734) 763-WALK (9255)

Campus Safety Services Building

1239 Kipke Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

www.umich.edu/~safety

U of M Health Services

Emergency Services: (734) 936-6666

Walk-in Medical Services: (734) 936-4000

1500 E. Medical Center Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

www.med.umich.edu/

DTE Energy

Customer Service/Downed Power Line: (800) 477-4747

Gas Leak: (800) 947-5000

www.dteenergy.com

Ann Arbor Utilities Department (Water)

Phone: (734) 994-2666

www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/framed/Utilities/index.html

Ann Arbor Building Department, Housing Inspection Bureau

Phone: (734) 994-2678

Ann Arbor City Hall

www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/framed/bldg/default.html