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FIRE PREVENTION TIPS FOR APARTMENT RESIDENTS

Residents in apartments have proven to be in the highest risk group from the affects of accidental fire. There are several things you can do to lessen the risk of home fires. Some of the primary methodologies are:

1. Test your smoke detector regularly no less than once a month.
2. Take care when cooking. Closely monitor children in the kitchen while cooking. Stay awake, most kitchen fires occur when occupants are preparing food and fall asleep waiting for their food to cook. When you leave your apartment, make sure cooking appliances are all off.
3. Plan an escape if there is a fire and practice the escape with children in your care.
4. If you live above the ground floor, purchase an emergency escape ladder that can be used if your normal exit is blocked by fire.
5. Fire starting materials such as matches and lighters should be carefully secured to prevent access to children. Never burn incense, candles, etc. when young children are in the home. If a child can see it they can reach it with brooms, toys or other common household items. Fire peaks a child's curiosity and they are far more resourceful than we often believe.
6. Take special care if you smoke tobacco products. Never smoke in bed or when sleepy and thoroughly extinguish smoking products in ash-trays.

There are several state and local ordinances that help prevent devastating fire and protect the lives of apartment dwellers. These ordinances are enforced and violations can result in fines up to \$250.00. Citations to Apartment Managers and Residents are issued most often regarding the following ordinances:

1. Humble Ordinance 364: prohibits parking any motorcycle, go-cart, lawnmower, or other gasoline-powered machine under stairways or balconies in apartment projects.
2. Humble Ordinance 363: prohibits the use of solid or gas fueled cooking devices, or barbecue pits, in patios, upon balconies, or on or below stairways in apartment projects.
3. State regulation: Smoke detectors must be installed and maintained in working condition by the property owner. Tampering with to disarm smoke detectors is a violation of sec. 603.6.
4. Four inch or larger address numbers must be permanently affixed the entrance doorway to each apartment unit in a manner that they can be seen from sidewalk level. Eight inch or larger building numbers and unit number ranges shall be permanently affixed to the buildings so as to be visible from street level in a manor approved by the Fire Official. All address numbers shall be of one color with a contrasting background so as to be readily visible.

5. Fire Lanes are established by the Fire Marshal's Office and maintained by apartment building owners. These fire lanes are established to allow access to buildings by fire apparatus. Anyone parking in fire lanes may be fined up to \$250.00.
6. No fireworks of any kind may be discharged or possessed in the City Limits at any time. All fireworks found inside the City Limits will be confiscated and the person possessing them may be fined up to \$250.00 per offense.

These ordinances were adopted and are enforced to increase the safety of apartment residents. For information regarding these ordinances or to report violations contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 281 446 4928. To report a violation you believe may cause an imminent hazard, dial 911 and report it to the Humble Police Department.

Thanks,

Clinton Johnson
Fire Marshal
City of Humble