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## **FIRE SAFETY**

### SMOKE DETECTORS

- All rental housing must have working smoke alarms. Contact your landlord or property manager for help.
- Batteries in smoke alarms should be replaced at least once a year.
- Clean your smoke alarms twice a year by using a vacuum. Dirty alarms can degrade sensitivity.
- Test alarms once a month.
- If you have a problem with nuisance alarms, due to cooking fumes or other non-fire causes such as steam, do not disconnect the alarm or remove the batteries. You may not remember to put the batteries back in the alarm after cooking. Instead, wave a towel near the alarm. Try another location or another model of alarm, but keep your home protected. Always be sure you understand why an alarm is sounding before you treat the alarm as a nuisance.

### CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell. Headache, nausea, and drowsiness are symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

### CANDLES (Candles/Incense are discouraged from being used in your home)

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Blow out candles before they get too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights ready to use during a power outage - never use candles.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, or in a locked cabinet

### SMOKING - All of our rental homes are NON-SMOKING

- If you smoke, smoke outside. Never smoke in bed.
- Never smoke where medical oxygen is used. Oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal.
- Wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy non-combustible ashtrays. If ashtrays are not available, use a metal can or pail.

### IF THERE IS A FIRE

- If a smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Go to the outside meeting place. Call 9-1-1.
- If there is smoke blocking the door - use your second way out.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- Never use elevators during a fire – use the stairs.
- If there is smoke coming around the door, leave the door closed and use your second way out.

- If you open a door, open it in a slow manner. Be ready to shut the door if heavy smoke or fire are present.
- If you cannot get out, close the door - Call 9-1-1.
- Say where you are and then signal for help at the window – drop an item like a toy or pillow out the window.
- If you cannot get to someone needing assistance, leave the home and call 9-1-1. Tell the emergency operator where the person is located.
- If pets are trapped inside your home, tell firefighters -never re-enter a burning building.

### HOME ESCAPE PLAN

- Draw a map of each level of the home.
- Show all doors and windows.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible.
- Teach your children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them. Alert 911 Dispatch to non-ambulatory residents location.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance away.

### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- As a general rule, firefighting should be left to the fire department.
- Only adults who know how to use portable fire extinguishers should use them.
- Before trying to fight a fire, be sure that:
  - o You know how to use the fire extinguisher, and it is the correct type.
  - o Everyone else has left the home and someone is calling the fire department.
  - o The fire is small, confined, and not spreading.
  - o You have a clear escape route.
- If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire, just get out! Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.

### COOKING

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking. Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep things that can catch on fire away from your stovetop - oven mitts, towels, wooden and plastic utensils.
- If you have a small grease fire - smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

### HEATING

- Never use your oven or stove for heating.
- Do not place heaters where children or others might bump into it.
- Place space heaters on a level, solid, flat surface. (Space heaters are discouraged as they can easily start fires)
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Only use portable heaters that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory, and that have an automatic shut-off—if they tip over, they shut off.
- If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy duty cord marked with a #14 gauge or larger wire.
- If the heater's plug has a grounding prong, use only a grounding (three-wire) extension cord.
- Keep portable space heaters away from anything that can burn.

### ELECTRICAL

- Only plug one heat-producing appliance (coffee maker, toaster, space heater) into an outlet. Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord with a major appliance - it can easily overheat and start a fire.

- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn, including furniture, bedding, curtains, clothing, and flammable or combustible items.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- Check electrical cords often. Replace cracked, damaged, and loose electrical or extension cords.
- Do not place electrical cords where they can be damaged or pinched by furniture, under rugs and carpets, or across doorways.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only.

### **Open-Flame Cooking Devices & LP-Gas Storage**

- Open-Flame Cooking Devices (LP-Gas). LP-gas fueled open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies (above the first story) or within 10 feet of combustible construction (e.g., stucco over wood framing).

Exceptions:

1. One and two-family dwellings.
2. LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2 ½ pounds [nominal 1 pound LP-gas capacity]

- Open-Flame Cooking Devices (charcoal/solid fuel). Charcoal or solid fueled open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies (above the first story) or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

- LP-Gas Storage within Residential Buildings. Storage of LP-Gas cylinders within a residential building (under the horizontal projection of the roof, floor or balcony above), including the basement or any storage area in a common basement of a multiple-family buildings and attached or detached garages, shall be limited to cylinders each with a maximum water capacity of 2.7 lb. [nominal 1 lb. LP-gas capacity] and shall not exceed 5.4 lb. aggregate water capacity per each living space unit.

- LP-Gas Storage on Exterior Balconies of Residential Buildings. Cylinders having water capacities greater than 2.7 lb. [nominal 1 lb. LP-gas capacity] shall not be located on decks or balconies of dwellings of two or more living units above the first floor.

Notes: Typical consumer LP-Gas barbecue cylinders are 47.7 lb. water capacity [nominal 20 lb. LP-Gas capacity]. Typical LP-Gas camp stove or lantern canisters are 2.7 lb. water capacity [nominal 1 lb. LP-gas capacity].

### **Fast Facts about Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels —gasoline, wood, charcoal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane — burn incompletely. Equipment and vehicles powered by internal combustion engines are a common source of carbon monoxide. Vehicles running in an attached garage or generators running inside a home or attached garage, can quickly produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

The dangers of CO depend on a number of variables, including the person’s health and activity level. Infants, pregnant women, and people with physical conditions that limit their body’s ability to use oxygen can be more severely affected by lower concentrations of CO than healthy adults would be. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.

Low level CO poisoning can often be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning, and other illnesses. Some symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, lightheadedness or headaches. When extremely high CO levels are present, confusion, incapacitation and loss of consciousness can occur within minutes.

In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which CO was found, or an average of nine calls per hour. According to the NFPA, this represents an increase of 96 percent from 40,900 reported in 2003.

CO incidents are more common during the colder months. During the period 2006 to 2010 half of CO incidents reported to local fire departments across the U.S. occurred between the months of November and February, peaking in December.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that from 1999–2010, an average of 430 people per year were killed by unintentional CO poisoning from a variety of consumer products and motor vehicles.

Interconnected CO alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. A licensed electrician can install hard-wired interconnected CO alarms, or homeowners can install wireless alarms, plug-in alarms, or battery operated alarms.



If your unit comes equipped with a Nighthawk Carbon Monoxide Alarm, it is essential to leave the alarm installed and plugged in at all times.

- Push the test button each month to make sure it's working.
- If you hear the alarm, get outside immediately.
- Call the fire department and/or Intermountain Gas.

Do not go back inside unless the firefighters say it is safe.



# Get to Know Carbon Monoxide Alarms



Fuels that burn like wood or charcoal, or make heat or energy using carbon-based fuels—natural gas, propane, oil, gasoline or diesel engines—can produce a gas called carbon monoxide. Malfunctioning or improperly vented fireplaces, furnaces and portable and stationary generators can produce carbon monoxide.



You can't see the gas. You can't smell it. But carbon monoxide can make you really sick or kill you.



A carbon monoxide alarm will let you know if unsafe levels of this poison gas are in your house.



You need an alarm outside bedrooms.



— Keeping Your Community Safe with Carbon Monoxide Alarms —



# Get to Know Carbon Monoxide Alarms



You need an alarm on each level of your home.



Push the test button each month to make sure it is working.



If you hear the alarm, get outside immediately.



Then call the fire department. Don't go back inside unless the firefighters say it is safe.



— Keeping Your Community Safe with Carbon Monoxide Alarms —

# Carbon Monoxide Safety



Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- » CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- » Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- » Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- » Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- » Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- » If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- » If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel.
- » If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- » During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- » A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- » Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

## HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT



Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

## FACTS

- ! A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- ! In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)

# Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.  
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

**1** Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.



**2** Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

**3** Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



**4** Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov) and [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

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