

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE PREVENTION

**Self - Inspection Recommendations
Apartments & Condominiums**

State law requires that the local fire department inspect all multi-unit apartments and condominiums (three units or greater); normally we inspect the exterior of the property along with any 'common' areas within the complex. In an effort to promote safety, The Fire Department has provided a self-inspection program to help you identify fire and life safety concerns within your individual unit. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and thank you for ensuring your fire and life safety protection is maintained and operating as designed. Listed below are some recommendations for your apartment or condominium.

SMOKE ALARMS:

Smoke alarms are required and should be maintained per manufacturer's recommendations. Smoke alarms should be located in hallways leading to all sleeping areas. Smoke alarms should be tested and batteries replaced every six months, preferably at daylight savings or when necessary.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

Fire extinguishers are the primary tool to stop a small fire. Please ensure your unit has a portable fire extinguisher (minimum 2A: 10BC) or that one is easily accessible within 75 feet of travel from your unit.

ELECTRICAL:

Electrical hazards are a concern within all structures. All electrical outlets and switches should have cover plates. Circuit breakers should be labeled and never taped in the open position. Any electrical cords should be in good condition, show no signs of wear, not spliced or extended from room to room, and show no degradation from heat. Extension cords should not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring. Any permanent appliance or device should be plugged directly into a receptacle. If you use a portable electric space heater be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions and always keep clear of any combustible materials.

GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

Residents should keep water heaters, washers and dryers clear of combustible materials. The area around any electrical panel should also be clear of combustible material. Storage should be reduced to at least two-feet below ceilings. You should also ensure your unit is clear of rubbish, and help keep common trash areas or chutes clear at all times. No combustibles can be stored under any stairway (this would be the worst place for a fire to start because it eliminates an escape from the floor above). Exits, windows, and stairways should also be free of any storage and/or obstructions. Any fire doors should be self-closing and not propped open by wedges. Fire resistive construction is very

important to prevent a fire from spreading into other areas of your unit or neighboring unit. Please ensure your unit is free of holes in the walls or ceilings. All ventilation pipe and tubing shall be connected, be free from leaks, and properly functioning (water heater, dryer, stove top, etc.). Ensure laundry room is clear of dust and lint build-up which can create a fire hazard. Automatic fire sprinkler heads should be clear of corrosion, paint, or any visible damage. Sprinkler heads should not be obstructed nor should anything ever be hung from any head.

FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE STORAGE:

The Fire Department recommends that you limit the storage of flammable liquids and combustible materials in your home. In case of a fire, any amount of flammable liquid or excessive combustibles will create a much higher fire load resulting in greater fire losses. We recommend you not store flammable liquid inside your unit and never store flammable liquid in the basement.

OPEN FLAME COOKING DEVICES:

New for 2008, The California Fire Code prohibits open flame, or propane (greater than 2.5 gallon tank capacity) cooking devices (BBQ's) on combustible balconies. There are a few exceptions, based upon whether your building has an automatic fire sprinkler protection system, etc.... Check with your Home Owners Association or your landlord for permissible appliances and use.

As always, The Culver City Fire Department stands ready to help you in any safety related matter or with any questions you may have regarding fire and life safety self-inspection recommendations. Feel free to contact Fire Prevention online at Culver City Connect (CCC) on our city's website at culvercity.org or call us at 310-253-5925.

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