

Risk Control Safety Topics

Habitational Exposures



Cooking Fire Protection

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Prevent food and grease build-up by keeping cooking surfaces clean.
- Keep curtains, towels and potholders away from hot surfaces.
- Keep suppression cans in place.
- Never put water on a grease fire. Cover with a wet towel, metal lid or extinguish with salt or baking soda
- Store grills at least 10 feet from the building and other combustibles



Electrical Safety

- Use electrical devices that are in good working order and have been listed by a recognized testing lab (e.g. Underwriter's Laboratories [UL])
- Do not overload circuits
- Extension cords should only be used for temporary power, not permanent installations
- Make sure extension cords are in good condition (e.g. not cut or frayed)



Water Exposures

- Make sure sump pumps are in working order
- Ensure that appliances, as well as kitchen and bathroom fixtures, are in good working order and do not leak water
- Keep windows located near heating sources closed in cold weather
- Ensure that residents know where the main water shut off is located for their unit as well as to specific water lines
- Develop a water damage prevention and response plan
- Document water damage when it occurs



Space Heater Safety Tips

- Prohibited unless supplied and installed by maintenance
- Don't use extension cords to run a space heater, unless properly rated
- Never leave a space heater on when an adult is not present in the room.
- Never keep flammable liquids near a space heater.
- Never go to sleep with a space heater turned on.
- Never use your oven for heat



Smoking

- Avoid smoking indoors, even if permitted to do so
- If smoking outdoors, keep away from items that can catch fire (ie: dried mulch, leaves, or trash)
- Dispose of ash and butts properly
- Utilize a non-combustible receptacle made for this purpose
- Ensure that ash and butts are fully extinguished and cool before placing in trash
- Do not smoke while tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol



Seasonal Fire Causes

- Winter Holidays – Live Christmas Trees, Candles, excessive extension cords
- Fireworks
- Halloween – Candles, Decorations, Loose Costumes
- Thanksgiving – Increased cooking exposure