



Prevent Think Life Safety

For additional information, call 503-805-8482

Apartment/Rental Safety

Apartment living can be a great way to escape the burden of a house and yard. However, the burden of safety is always with you. In fact, in apartments, condos, and plexes, you can only be as safe as those around you. A safe community becomes even more important.

Consider the following safety ideas:

- Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives! – The landlord is responsible to provide working smoke alarms and to replace the device if you let them know it's no longer functioning. However, waiting for the landlord to discover a non-working alarm is dangerous to you. Test your smoke alarm monthly and report it immediately if it isn't working. If your landlord fails to repair/replace it for you immediately, contact your fire department. In these settings, working smoke alarms are not only a good idea, they are the law.
- Know your ways out – Be familiar with ways out of your apartment or condo. Practice using two ways out.
- Go or Stay? – Getting out of a building that is on fire is always the best defense. However, if you find your way blocked by smoke or fire, or if you physically can't make it out, stay in place, keep your door closed, and go to the window and yell for help. Hang a sheet or towel out the window to signal firefighters you need help. You can even use your phone to call 9-1-1 to give the operator your location. They'll pass it on to firefighters at the scene.
- Fire Sprinklers are your Friend – A building with automatic fire sprinklers is very safe. The fire usually will not leave the area in which it started. If the fire starts in your living area, leave immediately and close the door as you go. This will contain the fire and smoke and allow the automatic fire sprinkler to work better.
- Fire Extinguishers – Just because they are there doesn't mean you have to use them. Life safety is the number one priority (for firefighters too). Get everyone out before ever attempting to use an extinguisher. Only use a fire extinguisher if you feel comfortable doing so. Using them incorrectly can cause the fire to spread. Call 9-1-1 before you begin, just in case it doesn't work.
- Meet Firefighters in front of your building – You know your building and the resident in it. Meet firefighters in front of the building and help them determine who made it out and who may need rescue. Your help may save lives.
- Addresses – Be sure the address on your unit or complex is easily seen by firefighters. Not every firefighter is familiar with every building and it's very difficult to back up or turn a fire engine around if the address is passed by.