

APARTMENT SAFETY

BIKES

To prevent your bike from being stolen, we encourage you to:

- Store your bike inside if possible. A closed/locked garage, storage shed, or inside your home will keep it safer.
- If you have to leave your bike outside, whether at home or at the store, make it difficult to steal. Securing your bike to a bike rack through the rear tire and frame using a **U style bike lock** or combination of a U-lock with other locks will make it harder to steal. (Cable or chain locks are frequently cut.)
- Register your bike with Bike Index through the City of Boise at www.cityofboise.org/bikeindex. If we find your bike, we can easily track it back to you (**and it's free!**)
- Be aware of and report suspicious activity that seems oddly out of the ordinary for your neighborhood.
- If you are a victim of a stolen bike or observe suspicious activity, please call Boise Police Non-Emergency at 208-377-6790. Likewise, if you find an abandoned bike, please contact Police Non-Emergency for follow-up.

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.
- Apartment units with gas fired appliances, wood burning stoves, or attached garages must have at least one Carbon Monoxide detector near sleeping areas. 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.
 - 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.**



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

CANDLES

- 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

- 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.
 - **ALWAYS DISCARD CIGGARETTE BUTTS APPROPRIATELY – do not discard onto the ground.**

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.
- 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.

For more information, go to: <http://fire.cityofboise.org/fire-prevention/>

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].



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 —