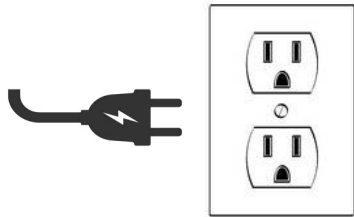


ELECTRICAL

- Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Keep lamps and light fixtures away from any flammable or combustible items.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- Do not place electrical cords where they can be damaged or pinched by furniture, under rugs and carpets.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only.



COOKING

Cooking is the leading cause of fires in apartment buildings.

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- If a fire starts in a microwave or oven, keep the door closed and turn-off the unit.
- Always have a lid or fire extinguisher close by to extinguish a small fire.

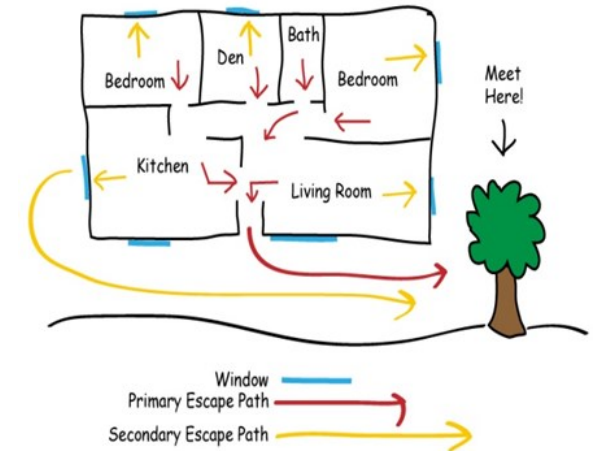
HEATING

- Never use your oven or stove for heating.
- Turn portable 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 have an automatic tip-over shut-off.
- Keep portable space heaters away from anything that can burn.

IF THERE IS A FIRE

- If a smoke alarm sounds, get out and go to your designated outside meeting place. CALL 9-1-1.
- 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.
- If you open a door, open it in a slow manner. Be ready to shut the door if heavy smoke or fire are present.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and crawl under the smoke.
- Never use elevators during a fire – use the stairs.
- Never re-enter a burning building.

ESCAPE PLAN



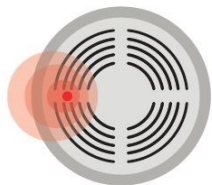
Develop an emergency escape plan for your apartment complex that includes two exits out of every room and a meeting place outside the front of the building.

Meridian Fire Department is available to assist in developing your plan.

- Practice your escape plan with ALL members of your household.
- Teach children how to operate window locks. Discuss second story options.
- Teach all members of your household to crawl low if there is smoke.
- Sleep with your bedroom doors closed.
- Teach children how to call 9-1-1.
- Consider family members with special needs—do they need assistance.

SMOKE ALARMS

- 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. 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. Instead, wave a towel near the alarm. Try another location or another model of alarm. Always be sure you understand why an alarm is sounding before you treat the alarm as a nuisance.



CARBON MONOXIDE

- 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.

DO/DID YOU KNOW?

- Where the nearest fire extinguisher is in your building.
- Most residential fires begin in the kitchen.
- Unattended candles and improperly disposed of smoking materials greatly increases your risk of having a fire.
- Charcoal BBQ's are only allowed on the balcony of fire sprinkled buildings.
- 5lb Propane grills are only allowed on ground floor units at least 10ft from the structure.



MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
 (208) 888-1234
fireeducation@meridiantcity.org
MERIDIANCITY.ORG/FIRE

**FOR ALL EMERGENCIES
 DIAL 911**



APARTMENT FIRE SAFETY



FACT

The leading causes of apartment related fires include; 1) cooking (hot plates, microwaves, portable grills, etc.), 2) arson, 3) careless smoking, 4) unattended candles, and 4) overloaded extension cords, power strips, and outlets.

FACT

Smoke alarms are your first line of defense should you have a fire.