

MONTEREY FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Every year more than 4,000 people lose their lives, and over 25,000 people are injured in condo and apartment fires in the United States. The following are a few tips that can help protect you and your family.

Make Sure Your Smoke Detectors Are Working

What is the best (and easiest) way to ensure your safety? Check that your smoke detectors are in good working condition. More than half the people who are injured in fires lose their lives because they aren't protected by working smoke detectors. Test smoke detectors in your condo once a month to make sure they are operating properly, and replace batteries every year to make sure the alarm will sound when it needs to. Try to tie this into other seasonal responsibilities so it is easier to remember, such as when it comes time for you to change the clocks in the spring and then in the fall.

Check Regularly For Hazards

Be careful with smoking materials, and keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children. Also keep a consistent eye-out for worn electrical cords, overloaded extension cords and outlets, all of which can become electrical hazards.

No Butts About It

For all those smokers in the community, we ask that you throw those butts in an ashtray, not off the balcony or on the grounds. Do not put them out on stairways or on buildings. They not only make an unsightly mess, IT'S A FIRE HAZARD!! Help us keep our grounds beautiful and fire-free with just a little consideration.

Know the Locations of Fire Safety Features

<u>There are fire alarm boxes and fire extinguishers at the bottom of each stairway of each building.</u> You'll want to convey these locations to every person in your family, so no matter who is home if an emergency situation occurs, they know where this critical safety equipment is located.

Develop an Evacuation Plan

Know of at least two ways to get out of your building should a fire arise. If you are in a second floor unit you may consider purchasing a "two-story portable roll-up fire escape ladder". These are available at many stores (including Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes, and at Amazon.com) and varying places online. Have a predetermined meeting place for your family, safely away from your building, and practice this plan so that every family member knows it by heart.

Monterey Homeowners Association