

S A F E T Y N O T E S

August 2015

EVACUATION PLANNING:

Landlords and managers have the responsibility of assuring there is a basic and reliable fire escape plan for each residential unit that is rented. Plans need to be tailored to the size and shape of the building as well as the required fire-safety features.

According to Washington state law RCW 59.18.060, each tenant must have a checklist that informs them of the fire protection and building safety features of their residence. That list must contain the following seven items: whether or not the building has a fire sprinkler system, a fire alarm system, a smoking policy (with copy of that policy), an emergency notification plan, an emergency relocation plan, an emergency evacuation plan and a diagram of the emergency evacuation route.



Some fire jurisdictions additionally require a minimal fire emergency guide that contains the following information:

- Location of manual pull fire alarm boxes
- Location of portable fire extinguishers
- Location of smoke alarms
- Location of carbon monoxide detectors
- Exit routes from each apartment using stairwells rather than elevators
- Location of the safe meeting place for residents outside of the building
- Instructions for tenants who are unable to evacuate the building via stairwells.

Residents should be familiar with this basic information and confident that they would be able to correctly respond to any type of fire emergency in their home. It only makes sense that residents should know where their smoke detectors are located and how to help maintain them. If they have battery-operated detectors, they are responsible for keeping fresh batteries in them. Whether they have battery-operated screw-in detectors or hardwired detectors with battery backup, they need to know the age and type of detector. Managers are responsible for assuring that detectors are less than 10 years old. They are well-advised to have at least one photoelectric detector on each level of the home because that type of detector will respond up to 40 minutes faster than an ionization detector in a slow-burning, smoldering type of fire. Smoke detectors are required on each level of the home, outside the sleeping areas and inside each bedroom.

If an older apartment building does not have a monitored alarm system, it is important for all residents to understand that pulling the manual fire alarm will only alert the residents inside that building. The fire department will not be aware of a fire until someone calls into 9-1-1 and gives the location of the fire incident. There have been serious delays in getting a fire response to a burning building because tenants did not realize they had to make the 9-1-1 call.

The more prepared your residents are to respond immediately to any type of fire situation, the less damage there will be to persons and property. If you have questions regarding fire escape planning for your residents, please call Spokane Fire at 509.625.7058.

LIGHT ALERT

In terms of light shows, there is more to be aware of this year than the annual Perseid meteor shower of shooting stars around August 12th!

Approximately 1.6 million units of indoor two-light fluorescent light fixtures, ranging in size from 18 inches to four-feet long and sold primarily through Ace Hardware, Lowe's and True Value, were recalled in mid-July by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The units pose a fire hazard because the socket can overheat, arc and melt. These fixtures were sold between July 2011 and April 2015 and cost between \$13 and \$67. To view the 10 varieties of light fixtures and locate the precise model numbers, go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2015/Cooper-Lighting-Recalls-Fluorescent-Lighting-Fixtures/>. Customers will receive a free replacement through Cooper Lighting.



In addition, about 700,000 Cree LED T8 lamps with 48 inch long replacement fluorescent tubes were recalled because of electrical arcing and resultant burn hazards. They were sold nationwide between August 2014 and April 2015 for \$22 a tube at Home Depot and to commercial lighting customers through electrical distributors. Review <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/recalls/2015/cree-recalls-led-lamps/> to find the affected product numbers and get a replacement bulb.



You can sign up for this monthly newsletter, ask a fire-related question or suggest a specific safety topic by contacting Jan Doherty at jdoherty@spokanefire.org or by calling 509.625.7058.



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