

## S A F E T Y N O T E S

### Fire Is Everyone's Fight March, 2017



Help us by joining the fight. According to the United States Fire Administration, a home fire is the most dangerous fire threat to a family. Approximately 16,000 people are injured or die in home fires annually. Nationwide fire departments work to change how people think about fire and fire safety through education aimed at reducing home fire injuries, deaths, and property loss. While we as a fire department are here to protect our community, Fire is Everyone's Fight and we need your help. We all have a role to play in ensuring that fires don't start.

The good news is that your role is simple and pretty intuitive. By following some simple safety tips you can significantly reduce the likelihood of yourself or your loved ones experiencing the tragedy of a home fire.

#### **Cooking is the leading cause of household fires.**

- ◆ When cooking, avoid wearing loose clothing that can easily catch on fire.
- ◆ Keep anything that can catch fire, such as towels, away from cooking surfaces.
- ◆ Turn pot handles away from you to reduce the chances of scalding.
- ◆ Maintain a three-foot, kid-free zone around cooking areas.

#### **Smoke alarms can make the difference between life and death.**

- ◆ Install smoke alarms inside and outside sleeping areas and on all levels of your home.
- ◆ Change your batteries every year and test your smoke alarms monthly.
- ◆ Replace smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old.

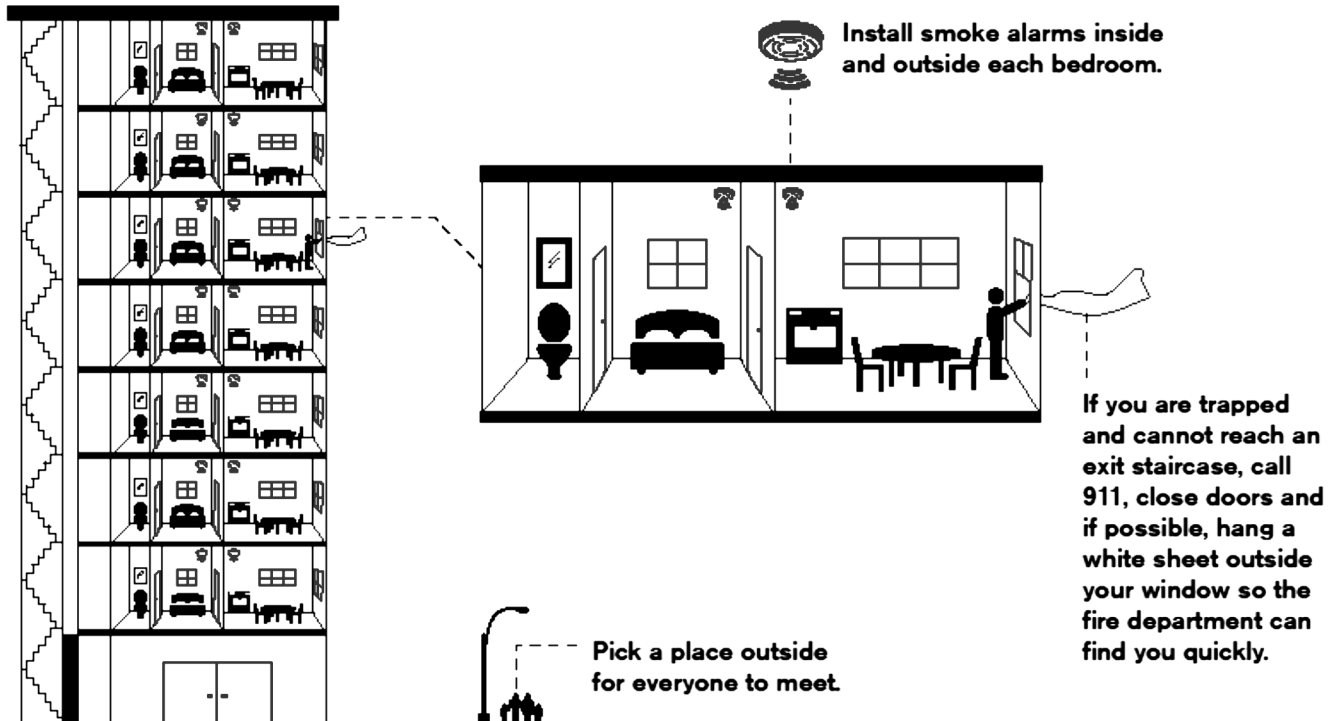
#### **Every second counts.**

- ◆ Practice your home fire drill at least annually.
- ◆ Know two exits from every room.
- ◆ Have a designated meeting location outside your home.

Live in an apartment complex or high rise building? Tips for high rise evacuations on the next page.

# Apartment Complex Escape Planning

## Mapping Out Your Escape Plan: High-Rise Apartment Complex



Did you know that if a fire starts in your home, you'll have just two minutes to escape? That's why it's important to have working smoke alarms in your home, develop an escape plan and practice that plan. Practice your plan until everyone in the household can get to a safe place—either the interior fire stairs of your building or a safe place in your unit—in less than two minutes. Test smoke alarms every month and replace the batteries as needed.

You can sign up for this monthly newsletter, ask a fire-related question or suggest a specific safety topic by contacting Jamie McIntyre at [jmcintyre@spokanefire.org](mailto:jmcintyre@spokanefire.org) or by calling 509.625.7058.



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