

Fire Safety in Apartments



Home fires cause over \$7 billion in property damage each year, and seven people perish in home fires on average each day in the United States. Being prepared could be the difference between minor damages or injuries and total loss or death. Here are some of the most important fire safety and prevention tips you should know.



Get Unplugged

Electrical fires in apartments often result from overloaded outlets, frayed cords, extension cords run under carpets, or small appliances left plugged in. Phones left to charge on top of pillows can cause fires, too. If you're a tenant, be mindful of how you use your electrical devices. If you're a landlord, make sure the apartment's electrical system is up to code and well-maintained.



Cook With Caution

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Follow safe cooking practices, like avoiding overheating or overfilling cookware when using oil, keeping flammable items away from hot surfaces, and turning off appliances when not in use. Fire mitigation products for kitchens can be installed to reduce fire risk and damage. As a Millers Mutual client, you can get preferred pricing on the **StoveTop FireStop**.



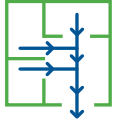
Heat Responsibly

It is the duty of the landlord to provide safe, functional heating options, but tenants and landlords can work together to promote safe use. Heating systems should be serviced before each winter, and any concerns with the system should be promptly addressed. If space heaters are used, keep a wide area of clearance around them. If the apartment has a fireplace, make sure everyone knows how to use it responsibly.



Get the Right Gear

Fire safety equipment ensures rapid detection and response if a fire occurs. Smoke alarms should be in the kitchen and bedrooms, and a fire extinguisher should be kept in the kitchen. Both landlords and tenants should know how to use and maintain these items. Additional equipment, like an emergency escape ladder or pet carrier, may be required based on apartment and tenant needs.



Plan & Practice

Experts agree that you may only have two minutes to escape a burning building before it becomes impossible to get out. If you're a tenant, create a detailed fire escape plan and practice it with all members of your household regularly. Landlords must maintain clear escape routes for the apartment and should inform tenants of the apartment building's escape routes, emergency exits, and fire extinguishers.

PREVENT & PROTECT

When residential rental property owners and tenants are focused on fire safety, the fire risk in an apartment can be greatly reduced. The American Red Cross offers resources to help households plan for and prevent home fires, including free home safety visits with smoke alarm installation. [Sign up](#) for your visit online.



Working with **Millers Mutual** can mitigate your risks even more. With renters insurance for tenants and comprehensive coverages like Businessowners Policies for landlords, Millers can help make you whole and protect your finances after a home fire. Discover our comprehensive [apartment solutions](#) today.