

To: Real Estate Department Partners

Notice: **15-35**

From: Real Estate Department

Date:

Re: **Fire Safety Week 2015 (October 4th through the 10th)**

Fire Prevention Week is October 4th thru the 10th this year, and yes it is time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors again. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home structure fires in half.

“Prevent Kitchen Fires” is the NFPA message for Fire Prevention Week this year

Kitchen fires are the leading cause of residential home fires & on average, the NFPA reports that, there are roughly 3,000 home fires per day caused by kitchen fire in the U.S.

A tenant tried to extinguish recent kitchen fire this year at an Indianapolis apartment complex. Water was thrown on the grease fire, and the fire & grease exploded and spread to all surfaces in the kitchen.

Water should never be used on a grease fire. Some believe that flour can be poured onto the flames to extinguish the fire. Flour will burn, and should never be used as well.

The best defense of kitchen fires is to have a fire extinguisher that is rated for kitchen fires. Some are designed specifically for grease fires, however, the ABC type fire extinguisher will do the job for kitchen fires & most household fires.

In using a fire extinguisher, always point the spray at the base of the fire for best results. Kitchen fire blankets also are a good defense of kitchen fires when they first start if the fire is not too large. Kitchen blankets can be used to smother the fire without the worries of causing the fire to be blown out of the pan by a fire extinguisher.

When smoke alarms fail it is most often because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Nuisance activations were the leading cause of disabled smoke alarms. Smoke detectors should be replaced after a 10-year service, as the sensors are no longer effective after 10-years, and

30 S. MERIDIAN ST. SUITE 1000 - INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204 - [HTTP://IHCDA.IN.GOV](http://ihcda.in.gov)

P: 317.232.7777 - F: 317.232.7778 - TF: 800.872.0371



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND HOUSING AGENCY

State of Indiana
Lieutenant Governor
Sue Ellspermann



for smokers who smoke in their home, the service life is shortened and detectors should be replaced much sooner than 10-years.

Sparky the fire safety dog says that everyone needs to ensure that they have two escape routes from their homes.

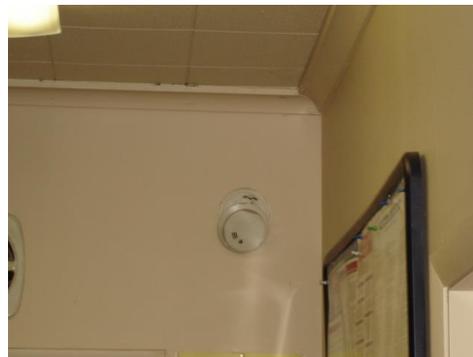
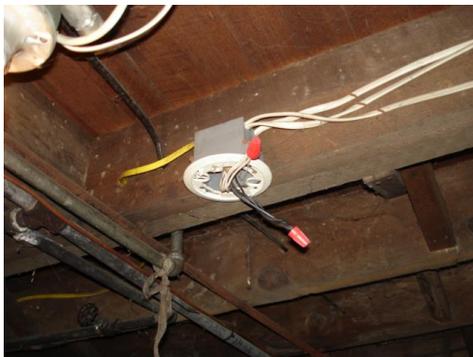
Bedroom windows serve as emergency escape & rescue openings, and we need to ensure that these windows are operable. Checking operable windows is recommended during fire safety week as well.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that:

- In 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to 484,500 home fires. These fires killed 2,640 civilians. Eighty-three percent of all fire deaths resulted from home fires.
- Someone was injured in a home fire every 40 minutes and roughly eight people died in home fires every day during 2008.
- A fire department responded to a home fire every 23 seconds.
- Almost two-thirds of reported home fire deaths in 2010-2011 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- About 1/3 of home fires and deaths happened in the months of December, January and February.
- Cooking continues to be the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.
- Smoking materials caused one of every four home fire deaths.
- The kitchen is the leading area of origin for home fires. However, bedrooms and living/family rooms are the leading areas of origin for home fire deaths.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that:

- Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half.
- A 2008 U.S. telephone survey found that 96% of U.S. households had at least one smoke alarm, yet in 2003-2006, no smoke alarms were present or none operated in two out of the five (41%) of the reported home fires.
- No smoke alarms were present in 40% of the home fire deaths.



In more than half of the reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, batteries were missing or disconnected. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected smoke alarms.

In Indiana it is against the law to disable or tamper with smoke detectors except when necessary for maintenance purposes. Smoke Detector Violations include the possibility of being charged with a Class A, B, or C infraction, or a Class D Felony. Reference Indiana Code IC 22-11-18-5. Smoke Detector Violations are indeed a serious offense. Smoke Detectors do save lives and Indiana Laws require them to be in place, operational, and maintained.

Please change those smoke detector batteries and enjoy peace of mind that you have raised the level of safety in your home for another year.



30 S MERIDIAN ST., SUITE 1000 - INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204 - [HTTP://IHCDA.IN.GOV](http://ihcda.in.gov)

P: 317.232.7777 - F: 317.232.7778 - TF: 800.872.0371

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND HOUSING AGENCY

State of Indiana
Lieutenant Governor
Rebecca S. Skillman

