



Travis County Emergency Services District (ESD) No. 2 Pflugerville Fire Department

What Every Apartment Resident Needs to Know

Because We Care, Pflugerville Fire Department representatives personally meet with property managers and maintenance leaders from every apartment complex in our area on a regular basis. We teach them about fire safety, help prepare them for their fire inspection, and encourage them to hold **YOU** to the highest standard in preventing fires! Here's what you need to know.

Got a Grill?

You are not allowed to store or use any open-flame cooking device on your balcony or within 10 feet of the building. Also, you cannot store propane, charcoal, wood, gas, or other combustible materials on your balcony or anywhere inside your apartment. The same goes for fueled equipment such as motorcycles, mopeds, lawn mowers, and portable generators.

Put It Out Before You Throw it Out

You and your guests must safely discard your cigarettes, cigars, lighted matches, and other burning objects. Never flick them off of your balcony, out of your car window, or into grass, mulch, or flowerbeds.

Stairs + Bikes = NO GO!

You can't store your bicycle or anything else under the stairwell, on the exit stairs, or in the breezeway.

A Hint about Lint

The leading cause of clothes dryer fires is failure to clean out the lint, and it's **YOUR** job to clean the lint filter in your apartment before and after every use! Let your maintenance staff know if the lint filter is missing, if you see lint build-up on the back of the dryer, or you notice that the vent is damaged or blocked.

Hear the Beep Where You Sleep

Most fire deaths happen within **FIVE** minutes of the fire starting, and over half of the people killed in fires were asleep when the fire started. Every bedroom should have a working smoke alarm. There should also be

a smoke alarm outside of the bedroom, and at least one on each level of a multi-level apartment. You should push the button to test your own alarms **EVERY MONTH!** Maintenance should also test your alarms every 3 to 6 months. If your alarm makes a quick chirping sound, it's probably a dead battery and you need to get a new battery put in right away. **NEVER** damage or remove a smoke detector.

Candle Caution

Be sure to blow out candles before you leave the room or go to bed. Never light them near anything that could catch fire.

Stay with the Stove

Always stay in the kitchen while you cook, especially when cooking with oil. Roll up your sleeves. Keep everything away from your stove top that could catch fire such as oven mitts, paper towels/plates, cookbooks, and wooden utensils. If a pan of food catches fire, carefully slide a lid over it, turn off the burner, and let it cool.

PASS the Fire Extinguisher

Your property manager should provide you with a working fire extinguisher either in the breezeway/common area or inside your apartment, typically under the kitchen sink or pantry. Before you pick it up, call 9-1-1! Be sure the fire is not between you and your only escape route, and never try to put out a large or growing fire. If you choose to use an extinguisher, remember to **P.A.S.S.:** **P**ull the pin. **A**im low at the base of the fire. **S**queeze the handle slowly and evenly. **S**weep the nozzle side to side.

Be Careful with Cords

Never run extension cords under doors or any floor covering such as rugs and carpets, and don't extend them through walls or ceilings. Only use extension cords with portable appliances.

A Sprinkler is Not a Hook

Don't hang anything on the sprinkler head or pipes such as clothes hangers, hats, cords, decorations, or holiday lights. This could keep the sprinkler from working when you really need it. It may also trigger a false alarm, wasting the valuable time of firefighters who could've been helping someone with a true emergency.

Plan and Practice Your Escape

Everyone who lives in your apartment should know **TWO** ways out of every room, in case one way is blocked by fire. Practice getting out as a family ... and ask your property manager to have fire/evacuation drills for everyone at your facility. If the fire alarm sounds, feel the door before you open it. If it's hot, use another way out. If it's cool, get out and close the door behind you to slow down the fire. When faced with having to escape through smoke, get **LOW** and go **UNDER** the smoke.

Watch the Water

If you can't swim or your kids can't swim, stay away from the pool! Every time kids are around pools (or lakes, creeks, rivers, or oceans) at least one adult who knows how to swim should be designated as the official Water Watcher. This person is responsible for staying focused on the kids the whole time and not becoming distracted by texts, phone calls, earphones, reading, or sleeping.

Stay Connected, Stay Safe

We are **YOUR** Fire Department! Stay connected with us to learn more about fire and life safety.

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