HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

**Heating**
- Keep furniture, curtains and other stuff away from baseboard heaters.
- Massachusetts prohibits the use of non-electric portable heaters.
- Keep electric portable heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that burns. This generally includes everything in your home.
- **Never** use an extension cord to run a portable electric heater.

**Electrical**
- Use surge-protected power strips.
- Limit the use of extension cords and never string them together.
- Never run extension cords under rugs or through doorways.
- Unplug small appliances like toasters, curling irons, hair dryers when you’re not using them.

**Housekeeping**
- Massachusetts prohibits storing gasoline, lawn mowers, and motorcycles in your home.
- Ashes from fireplaces and woodstoves should be stored in metal containers outside your home.
- Candles cause fires. A candle is an open flame waiting to become a larger open flame. Unintentional carelessness is dangerous. Be ever vigilant!

**Smoking**
- Smoking in bed and improper disposal of cigarette butts cause fires.

**Kitchen**
- Never leave cooking food unattended. Unattended cooking causes kitchen fires.
- Put a lid on it. Never carry a burning pan of oil outside. This will spread the fire up your arms and outside.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.

**Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors**
- Massachusetts law requires them in every home.
- You and your landlord are required by law to maintain them in operable condition.
- If battery operated, your landlord should change the batteries every year.
- The age of your building will determine what other fire safety installations are required.

**Escape Plan**
- Have two ways to get out of every room, especially the bedrooms.
- Windows and doors should open easily and fully if they are your way out.
Home Fire Escape Plan

Know Ways to Get Out
As you and your housemates are moving things in to your place, make sure you identify two ways to get out of every room, especially your bedrooms. Arrange your things so you can easily get out through the windows. Make sure the windows and doors open easily.

Know Where to Meet
Pick a meeting place outside, well away from the building. Do a head count at the meeting place to make sure everyone got out.

Stay Out and Call 911
Call 911 as soon as you are outside safely. Once you are outside, stay outside and wait for help.

Tips for a safe escape
- If you see smoke, try another way out. If you cannot avoid the smoke, crawl under it on your hands and knees.
- Do not stop or go back for anything. Possessions can be replaced. You cannot.
- Fire spreads quickly. Get out fast and stay out. Call 911 as quickly as possible.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
A properly operated fire extinguisher can stop a small fire and keep it from growing. An ABC, multipurpose dry chemical extinguisher is the recommended type. Before using it make sure:
- You know how to use it.
- You know how to tell if it’s safe to use it.
- You’ve called 911.
- You alert others to evacuate.
- You get out yourself if you need to.

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Count your smoke alarms
You’ll want to see one smoke alarm right outside every bedroom and at least one on every level of your home. Other rules will vary based on the age of your building.

If you don’t see smoke detectors call your landlord right away, or call the Amherst Fire Department 413 259-3082.

Check your smoke alarms and CO2 Detectors
Press the test button on smoke alarms and your carbon monoxide detectors every month to make sure they are still working properly. It’s a good idea to vacuum them once in a while to remove dust or cobwebs.

Change the batteries
Your smoke alarm and CO2 detector batteries should be changed at least once a year. Tell your landlord to change the batteries as soon as the alarm “chirps” warning that the battery is low.

SELF-INSPECTION FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST
You have made sure...
- your housemates all know the escape plan.
- you all know where you will meet up.
- you haven’t put stuff in front of your windows or doors that will prevent you from getting out.
- you’re using surge-protected power strips and that extension cords aren’t running all over the place, under rugs, or into other rooms.
- you are clear what your lease says about candles, and if they’re allowed, you know how to use them safely.
- your grill isn’t located on a wooden deck or porch, and it’s away from vinyl siding or anything else that could burn easily.

Did you pass the self inspection? Your local fire department has experienced fires happening as the result of each of these things. It is important to us all that you stay safe!!