Smoke Detectors
Ensure there is one on every floor and in each bedroom.
In buildings with 5 or more units, the smoke detectors should be interconnected.
Never cover or disable a smoke detector, this delays occupant notification in the event of a fire!
If a smoke detector is mounted on a ceiling, it should be placed 8-10 inches from the wall.
When wall mounted, the top of the smoke detector should be no closer than 4" from the ceiling.
Smoke detectors should be located away from high airflow areas, bathrooms, and kitchens.
Smoke detector batteries should be changed every six months (change your clocks, change your batteries!).
Never disconnect a good smoke detector battery to use for another purpose.
Battery operated smoke detectors should be tested monthly, system smoke detectors should be tested annually by the landlord’s fire alarm contract company.

Escape Plan
Know where all the exits from your residence facility are.
Develop an emergency escape plan from your bedroom that includes a primary and alternative escape route.
The escape plan should include a place safely outside the residence where residents can meet to make sure everyone got out.
Be sure that the hallways, and stairways are free from obstructions and trip hazards such as shoes, boxes, and bicycles.

Always know 2 ways out!

Fire Extinguishers
There should be at least one fire extinguisher located in the cooking area or kitchen.
A dry chemical fire extinguisher is preferred for use in off-campus housing. Extinguishers labeled “ABC” are suitable for fighting almost any type of residential fire.
Check the gauge regularly to make sure the unit is ready when you need it. Contact the building manager/landlord to have the unit recharged or replaced if the needle is not within the green area.
Before you use a fire extinguisher you should be trained on its proper use. The UR Fire Marshal’s Office would be happy to provide that training to you.

Use of Candles
Candles should never be left unattended, even for a short time.
Candles should never be used with combustibles near. Keep all papers, curtains, lampshades, blankets and tapestries a safe distance away.
Candles should be kept on flame resistant surfaces, the heat can damage furniture, or start fires.
Never attempt to move a burning candle, or place in a drafty area.
Keep candles free of foreign material (match sticks, wick clippings).
Keep wick trimmed to ¼ inch to avoid excessive smoking.
Discard candle if glass jar becomes cracked or broken.

Never leave a candle unattended!
Sprinkler Systems

It is strongly recommended that when looking for an off-campus housing arrangement, preference be given to those with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system. Sprinkler systems provide a first line of defense when a fire occurs by reducing fire spread.

Fireplace Safety

If your residence has a working fireplace, please visit our Fireplace Safety section to ensure that your unit is properly installed, inspected, and used.

Insurance

Have your parent/guardian check their homeowners/rental insurance policy to see if your housing situation is covered as well. If yours is not, you may want to consider purchasing a Renters Policy.

Smoking of Tobacco Products

The number one cause of fatal fires in residences is smoking.

Never smoke in bed.

Keep lighter and matches out of sight and out of reach of children. Never allow a child to play with either of them.

If smoking is permitted, have large, heavy ashtrays located in various locations.

Always check to see that cigarettes are extinguished before emptying ashtrays. Stubs still burning can ignite trash.

Kitchen Fire Safety

Sixty-five percent of all residential fires are related to the kitchen.

Never use water, flour or baking powder to attempt to extinguish cooking fires as they may cause the fire to get larger or create an explosion. Smother a grease fire by sliding a lid (or larger pot) over the pan or by spreading baking soda over the fire.

Never leave a stove or range unattended when cooking.

Cook your food - Not your kitchen!

Change your clock — change your batteries!

Sprinklers save lives! Look for them when deciding where to live!

Off-Campus Housing Fire Safety

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