

FIRE SAFETY IN RENTED HOUSING



SMOKE DETECTOR

If you get an early warning about a developing fire, you have the possibility to make it out in time, and if possible, to extinguish the outbreak of fire. Every residence must have at least one working smoke detector or fire alarm system. If the residence is large or consists of multiple floors, there should be multiple smoke detectors – at least one on each floor. These should preferably be connected so that they go off at the same time.

Check regularly that the smoke detector is in working order and that it can easily be heard in all bedrooms when the doors are closed. The battery should be changed once a year. Make it a habit to change the battery every December 1., as that is the designated Smoke Detector Day. In addition to testing the smoke detector with the test button, you should regularly also test with smoke. It is recommended to replace smoke detectors older than 10 years.



FIRE EXTINGUISHING EQUIPMENT

There must be at least one functional fire extinguisher in each living unit. This could be a fire hose, a powder extinguisher or a foam

THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE LANDLORD

- Provide a satisfactory number of smoke detectors in the residence (at least one in each residential unit).
- Provide adequate and appropriate equipment for extinguishing fires in the residence.
- Provide the residence with escape routes in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE TENANT

- To always act responsibly so as to not endanger the lives or property of other people.
- To maintain the fire detecting- and extinguishing equipment and to check that they are in working order.
- To keep the escape routes accessible.



Do not use the stove when you come home from a night out.

extinguisher. The extinguishing equipment must be mounted so that it is easily available. It must be checked regularly.

Fire extinguishers placed in common areas (corridors/stairwells) do not count as the required extinguisher for the individual residential unit and are only to be used to extinguish outbreaks of fire in the common areas.

ESCAPE ROUTES

It is illegal to block or place anything in the escape routes which might impede easy escape. In the event of a fire it is imperative that everybody in the residence can quickly make an exit. Keep the escape routes tidy, especially in apartment blocks with multiple residents in each hallway.

DO NOT USE THE STOVE WHEN YOU COME HOME FROM A NIGHT OUT!

Approximately 50 % of all fires begin on the kitchen stove. Stove fires occur mainly in the homes of the elderly and young single people. Fatal fire outbreaks happen at night. A possible explanation is that the people

involved are intoxicated or extremely drowsy. Always keep an eye on the stove when it is in use. Do not use it when returning late at night. Make a sandwich or buy something to eat before going home.

MAKE WAY FOR FIRE TRUCK

Think twice before parking your car in the narrow streets of Bergen. Lives can be at risk if your car blocks the road. Fire trucks, garbage trucks and snow plow trucks need at least 3 meters of road width. If you park incorrectly, you might get a ticket and the car might get towed. The area might also be made a non-parking zone.

IN CASE OF FIRE

- **Rescue** – everyone in danger
- **Call** – the emergency number 110
- **Extinguish** – if possible
- **Escape** – close windows and doors
- **Wait** – for the fire department

PREVENTING FIRES

- Keep an eye on the stove when it is in use and remember to turn it off afterwards. Never cook on the stove when returning from a night out.
- Unplug the coffee maker and the iron when these are not in use.
- Never use light bulbs with a higher wattage than what the lamp is certified for. Scorch marks are an acute warning signal.
- Never leave a room with lit candles.
- Do not overload sockets or extension cords with too many electric appliances.
- Do not use the dishwasher, laundry machine or tumble dryer when sleeping or when leaving the house.
- Do not empty ashtrays in the garbage can. Never smoke in bed.
- Discard old electrical equipment. Notify the landlord if fuses keep blowing or old screw-in fuses become so hot that they become uncomfortable to touch.
- Do not dry clothes on the heater.

Worried about fire safety where you live?
Please contact us!



Bergen Fire Department

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