

# Flash Point

## Apartment Fire Safety E-Newsletter

The Seattle Fire Department - Public Education Section

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Seattle Fire Department  
Education Section  
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Dear Apartment/Property Manager,

This is the **Fall 2009** edition of **Flash Point**, the Apartment Fire Safety e-newsletter from the Seattle Fire Department.

We hope you find this information useful. For comments or suggestions, send me an email. To unsubscribe, scroll to the bottom of this email.

thanks,  
Bill  
Public Education  
Seattle Fire Department



### October is Fire Prevention Month

Fall has arrived in Seattle and with it the need to take some steps to prevent fires related to cooler weather.



Remind tenants to keep the space around heaters clear. It's also a good time for managers to make sure that all apartment heating systems are working properly.

Review the **Home Fire Safety checklist** here.

This is also a good time to replace smoke alarms that are over 10 years old and to replace smoke alarm batteries – Daylight Saving Time ends on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Fire Prevention Tip: Heating fire safety

The Seattle Fire Department responds to hundreds of heating-related fires every year. As would be expected most heating-related fires happen during the cooler months.

Tenants should be reminded to give their heaters space. The Seattle Fire Department recommends one foot clearance between baseboard heaters and all combustibles, including curtains, furniture, books, and beds. Space heaters need three feet clearance and should never be

plugged into an extension cord.

Download the **Heating Safety Fact Sheet**.

Download the **Baseboard Heater Safety Handout**



*Baseboard Heater Fire*



*Fire Hazard – curtains and bedding too close to heater.*

## Arson Prevention

Over the past couple of weeks there have been a series of fires in the University District and Greenwood neighborhood that Fire Investigators have determined to be intentionally set. Property owners/managers and tenants can take some steps to prevent becoming a victim of an arson fire.

### **AROUND YOUR BUILDING**

- Remove any paper, recyclables, trash or other items that can burn from hallways, stairwells, elevators and common areas

such as laundry and lobby.

- Securely close lids of all trashcans/chutes, dumpsters and recycle bins.
- Be sure all stairwell doors latch shut and are not propped open.
- Clear garage areas of anything that could fuel a fire.
- Clean up wastepaper, weeds, litter, or anything that can burn from around buildings.
- Locate dumpsters, recycling bins and yard waste containers at least five feet away from combustible walls and openings of roof eave lines.
- Do not allow dumpsters to become overfilled. Arrange for additional dumpsters or take refuse to transfer stations, if required.
- Lock doors and windows of your apartment when leaving.
- Leave your indoor and outdoor lighting on during hours of darkness. Consider installing devices that automatically turn on outdoor lights when they sense darkness or movement outside the home.

#### **IN YOUR APARTMENT UNIT**

- Make sure your smoke alarms are working.
- Have an escape plan for all members of your family. Be sure it includes knowledge of all exits and a meeting place.
- Know the location of building fire extinguishers and how to use them.

Any information you believe may be related to arson may be reported to the ARSON ALARM HOTLINE at 1-800-55-ARSON. A reward may be provided for information resulting in an arson conviction. Persons providing information may remain anonymous.

Thank you for reading the Fall Edition of Flash Point.

**Sincerely,**

Bill Mace

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