

Emergency Numbers
Call 9-1-1 for any emergency.

Non-Emergency Numbers
Morgantown Fire Department
304-284-7480
Morgantown Police Department
304-284-7522
Cheat Lake Fire Department
304-594-1223
Star City Volunteer Fire Department
304-599-1539
Westover Fire Department
304-296-0840

For more information about fire safety and fire prevention, see the following websites:

www.morgantownfirefighters.org/
Morgantown Fire Department
www.nfpa.org
National Fire Protection Association
www.sparky.org
Sparky, the Fire Dog
www.firesafety.gov/
FireSafety.Gov: An Information Resource For Eliminating Residential Fire Deaths
www.usfa.dhs.gov/
U.S. Fire Administration
www.wvfiremarshal.org/
West Virginia State Fire Marshal

The Four 'P's' of Fire Safety

Preventing

At least once a month, check to make sure your smoke detectors are functioning properly. If you burn candles, do it safely, and avoid the use of space heaters. Never leave your stove unattended while you are cooking. Also, keep your apartment tidy and free of flammable debris, such as newspapers.

Protecting

Before signing a lease, look for smoke detectors, fire extinguishers in hallways, and possible escape routes. Replace smoke detector batteries every six months, and check your detectors at least once a week to make sure they function properly. Purchase inexpensive ABC fire extinguishers and put them in easily accessible places in your apartment.

Planning

Take a look at each room in your apartment, and make a plan for two escape routes from each room. Enter emergency numbers in your cell phone number listing.

Practicing

Practice the escape routes you have mapped out, doing so on your hands and knees. Try finding your escape routes with your eyes closed. Remember, if your unit catches on fire, there will be less smoke closer to the floor.

Off-Campus Housing Fire Safety



What You Should Know About Fire Safety and Prevention

WVU Office of Student Life
P.O. Box 6411
Morgantown, WV 26506
(304) 293-5611
www.studentlife.wvu.edu
studentlife@mail.wvu.edu



Smoke Detectors

When you first move into your rental unit, make sure that all smoke alarms are securely mounted. If the smoke detectors are battery powered, as a tenant it is your responsibility to put fresh batteries in all detectors. If your smoke detectors do not function, contact your landlord immediately. And it is a good idea to replace batteries every six months. A good rule of thumb is to replace batteries at the beginning (spring) and end (fall) of Daylight Saving Time.

Smoking

Many house fires are started by cigarettes that have not been properly extinguished. If you smoke, check your lease to see if it forbids smoking in your rental unit. If you smoke inside your rental unit, use deep-welled ashtrays that do not easily tip over. *And never smoke in bed or when you are intoxicated!*

A Word About Candles

According to the National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org), burning candles is the fourth leading cause of house fires in the U.S. If you burn candles, make sure you are using a stable, appropriate holder, and do not place candles close to curtains or any other flammable object. Keep candles away from open windows, fans, or any location where a burning candle can easily be knocked over. *And never leave a burning candle unattended!*

Cooking Fires

Nearly a third of all house fires result from cooking. Remember to keep your kitchen uncluttered and clean, and when you are cooking, never leave your stove unattended. Make sure all kitchen appliances are plugged into GFI (ground fault interruptor) outlets, which breaks the electrical circuit if it becomes overloaded. If a fire starts in your microwave, keep the oven door closed and immediately unplug the unit.

Space Heaters And Extension Cords

The winter months account for the most fire-related deaths. Inexpensive, portable space heaters are a leading cause of heating-related house fires. If you decide you need a space heater, first check with your landlord to see if your lease forbids them. If it is permissible to use space heaters, keep them several feet away from flammable objects, and never leave a space heater on when you leave your apartment or when you go to bed. Given that space heaters use a lot of electricity, you are better off turning up the thermostat on your furnace and dressing in warm clothing.

Before you sign a lease for a rental unit, make sure there is an adequate number of electrical outlets in each room. It is not a good idea to use extension cords, as they can overload electrical circuits and cause a fire. Never nail or staple extension cords, and do not run them under carpeting. *And be sure to use only UL-listed power strips!*

Doing Your Part To Prevent Fires

Grills: Never place a grill on a wooden porch or near a roof overhang.

Furniture: Keep furniture clear of window openings and doors so that you can make a fast exit in case of fire.

Personal Belongings: Check into renter's insurance as a precaution. Your parents' home insurance policy may cover your belongings, but check with their insurance company first. Renter's insurance is inexpensive and invaluable in case of fire.

Being Prepared

Many apartment complexes have fire extinguishers in the hallways or commons areas, but it is a good idea to have one or more in your apartment. Inexpensive fire extinguishers can be purchased at many department stores and hardware stores. Buy a few, keeping one in the kitchen, one in your bedroom, and one in the living room. Remember that 'ABC' dry chemical extinguishers can be used on any kind of fire.

Locate all possible routes of escape when you move into your apartment. If a fire alarm sounds in your building, evacuate immediately; do not stop to grab personal items. If your building is on fire, leave the premises immediately. Once you are safely outside the building, call 911. If you have to escape through smoke, crawl to the nearest exit, and if your clothes catch on fire, **stop, drop, and roll.**