

Do you have a working smoke alarm?

A working smoke alarm reduces the death rate from fire by 74%. For your safety, make sure your alarm is tested and maintained.



Under the B.C. Fire Code, each dwelling – whether owned or rented – must have a working smoke alarm.

If your alarm does not work, request a replacement from your landlord, building manager, unit owner, or strata. **It's the law. If clarification is needed, show this brochure or contact 604-543-6780 or fireprevention@surrey.ca for information.**

Maintaining your alarm:

Whether hard-wired or battery-type, smoke alarms need to be changed every 10 years (expiry dates are on the alarm). Test your alarm monthly and keep it maintained:

- > Use a broom handle or stick to push the test button. The alarm should sound and go into alarm mode if it is working properly.
- > Dust will build up in your alarm – vacuum it often.
- > For battery-type alarms, change batteries at least once a year.

Fire safety is everyone's responsibility

Fires can spread quickly between units in multi-residential buildings. When you work together with your building manager, strata or landlord to ensure you have a working smoke alarm, it protects both you and your neighbours.

All homes in B.C. – whether they are owned or rented – are required to meet the B.C. Fire and Building Codes, which include requirements to have working smoke alarms. Read this brochure to learn how to prevent fires and ensure your home has a working smoke alarm.



Protect your home & family!



HomeSafe is an industry-leading program offered by Surrey Fire Services that focuses on reducing household fire hazards in buildings or areas with the highest fire risk. Through public education, HomeSafe has significantly reduced fires and fire losses throughout Surrey.

Let's work together to
**IMPROVE
FIRE SAFETY**

IN MULTI-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS



604-543-6780 | fireprevention@surrey.ca
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Cooking safety

Cooking is one of the leading causes of fires and fire related injuries at home. Always:

- > Keep kids and dogs at least one metre (three feet) from the stove and preparation area.
- > Stay in the kitchen when using the stovetop. Turn off the stove if you must leave, even for a short period of time.
- > When using the oven, always set a timer reminding you to check on your food regularly.
- > Keep anything flammable – e.g., mitts, wood utensils, packaging, towels and curtains – away from your stovetop.
- > Never store anything flammable inside the oven.

If you have a small grease fire:

- > **Stovetop:** Do not use water! Instead, smother it by sliding a lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Leave it until cooled.
- > **Oven:** Turn off the heat and keep the door closed until cooled.

If you have any doubt, just get out!
Close the door behind you and call 9-1-1 immediately.

Fire safety on balconies

Barbecuing on balconies is a common cause of burns and exterior fires in multi-residential buildings. If your building allows barbecues, practice safe outdoor cooking with these tips:

- > Only use propane, natural gas or charcoal barbecues outside.
- > Place barbeque well away from the building, railings, eaves and branches.
- > Keep kids and dogs at least one metre (three feet) away from cooking area.
- > Never leave your barbeque unattended, even for a short time.
- > Remove grease buildup from the barbeque trays below the grill.
- > Keep your lid open when lighting the barbeque.
- > For propane devices, check the tank hose and connections before first use each year. Add a light soap/water solution and look for bubbles from leaks.
- > If you smell gas, immediately back away and call 9-1-1.
- > For lighting charcoal barbeque, use only charcoal starter fluid when starting – once the fire has started, do not add more or any other flammable liquids.
- > Let charcoal cool completely after use before disposing in a metal container.



Fire safety for smokers

Smoking materials such as cigarettes, lighters and matches are a leading cause of fires at home.

Smoking material fires are preventable. If you smoke:

- > Keep cigarettes, matches and other smoking materials up high out of reach of children, in a locked cabinet.
- > Never leave a burning cigarette unattended.
- > Use a deep, sturdy ashtray. Place it away from anything that can burn.
- > Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves or other items or materials that could ignite easily.
- > Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure they are out. Dousing them in water or sand is the best way to do that.
- > Use e-cigarettes with caution and never leave them charging unattended. Fires have occurred when e-cigarettes have been used, charged or carried.