



Central Washington University Apartments

FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

Follow These Safety Precautions and **STOP FIRE** before it **STOPS YOU!**

Fire Safety—Top Ten List

1. Educate yourself and family members on what to do in case of fire. Have an escape plan and a designated meeting place outside.
2. Keep furniture at least six inches away from baseboard heaters. Keep clothing, papers, etc. off of heaters. For best fire prevention, there needs to be airflow around baseboard heaters.
3. DO NOT smoke in your apartment.
4. DO NOT burn candles in your apartment.
5. Use only UL-approved extension cords and ones that are made to accommodate the electrical load of the appliances they are serving.
6. Avoid too many plugs in one outlet and use only UL-approved power strips that have internal fuses to prevent overload.
7. Keep extension cords out of walkways and out from under rugs.
8. Do not use and dispose of electrical cords with frayed wiring or poor connections.
9. Halogen Lamps: DO NOT put anything over the top of them and place them away from bedding, curtains and shelves where items could drop on top of them.
10. Know where your fire extinguisher is located and how to use it.

In Case of Fire: What to Do

1. If fire or smoke is present in the building: assess the situation and if the fire is small (contained in a garbage can) you MAY try to extinguish it using your fire extinguisher.
2. If the situation is out of control—GET OUT!
3. DO NOT go back in the building.
4. Call 911.

University Housing and New Student Programs

Central Washington University
400 East University Way
Ellensburg, WA 98926-7513

University Housing
Phone: 509-963-1831
Fax: 509-963-1892
E-mail: housing@cwu.edu

New Student Programs
Phone: 509-963-2735
Fax: 509-963-1892
E-mail: discover@cwu.edu



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Your future is Central.

CWU is an AA/EEO/Title IX Institution. TDD 509-963-2143



University Housing
and New Student Programs
www.cwu.edu/~housing



Fire Safety Facts & Information:

Smoking

In 2003, there were 388,500 reported home fires in the United States, resulting in 3,145 deaths, 13,650 injuries and \$5.9 billion in direct property damage. In the U.S., someone dies from a home fire roughly every three hours. Roughly one of every four fire U.S. deaths in 2001, (excluding September 11) was attributed to smoking materials.

Following are reasons why:

- Smoking materials (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.) are the leading cause of fire deaths and the third leading cause of fire injuries in the U.S.
- The most common material first ignited in home smoking material-related fires was trash or waste, followed by mattresses and bedding, and upholstered furniture.
- 58 percent of the people who died were asleep at the time of the fire and 15 percent were impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- When smoking outside your apartment: properly dispose of your cigarette and make sure it is completely out. In 2002, a fire in Brooklane Village causing more than \$5,000 in damage was started by an improperly disposed cigarette.

Alcohol is a factor in fire deaths. A government report states that "Approximately one-half of the adults who die in house/apartment fires have high BAC (Blood Alcohol Count) values, a finding that is consistent with the disproportionate number of deaths that occur in house fires on weekends, when people tend to consume more alcohol."

Candles

- According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2001, there were 18,000 home candle fires resulting in 190 deaths, 1,450 injuries and an estimated property loss of \$265 million.
- Forty-one percent of U.S. home candle fires begin in the bedroom, causing 24 percent of the deaths resulting from these fires.
- A special study found that the candles were being used for light in one-third of the fatal home candle fires, generally because power to the home had been shut off due to nonpayment (24 percent) or as a result of a temporary power outage (7 percent).
- December had almost twice the number of home candle fires of an average month.
- Seven out of 10 households in the U.S. now use candles, with younger adults more likely to use them than older adults.

It is against Central Washington University policy to burn candles inside any university-owned apartment.



**Fire Safety is Your Safety
Fire Safety is Family Safety**

Central Washington University and University Housing and New Student Programs are focused on the safety of the tenants who reside in CWU's apartments. One of the primary concerns coupled with tenant safety is the prevention of fire and fire safety education. It is important for tenants to review their CWU apartment contract and the CWU Apartment Reference Guide. These documents provide a comprehensive guide to safe and enjoyable living within CWU apartments. In addition to this information, the following are some fire safety facts and information to assist with making the CWU apartments fire free.