

Prevention of Electrical Fires

We would like all residents in our community to be aware that certain conditions can lead to dangerous electrical fires. You can prevent electrical fires – and help ensure your own safety – by heeding the following precautions.

DO:

- Check the cords on lamps and household appliances to make sure that they are not split or frayed and that the wire inside is not exposed.
- Exposed wire can emit heat and sparks, igniting a fire. Also, check the plugs on lamps and appliances to make sure they are not broken.
- Replace any appliance that has a defective cord or plug, or have a qualified electrician replace the plug.
- Follow manufacturers' specifications when using extension cords; make sure they are appropriate for the appliance you are using.
- Extension cords numbered 14 or 16 are not suitable for anything more than a lamp or small appliance – like a clock radio. To be safe, buy an extension cord labeled "heavy duty" so that it can safely accommodate any appliance you attach to it.

DO NOT:

- Do not pull the cord of an appliance when unplugging it. This can break the plug. Instead, grasp the plug when pulling it from the outlet.
- Do not overload outlets by using a "multitap" or "octopus connection."
- Plugging three or more appliances into one outlet heats up the cable behind the wall, causing the insulation around the cable to disintegrate and expose the wire. The wire emits heat and can set the plasterboard on fire from behind the wall. Do not plug more than two appliances into an octopus connection.
- Do not place any electrical cords near baseboard heaters. This can cause the cord to crack, exposing the wire and possibly causing a fire.