



ADDRESSING SAFETY

DURING SMOKE-FREE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Resident health and safety are the primary reasons for adopting a smoke-free apartment policy; smoke-free policies reduce fire risk and eliminate secondhand smoke exposure. If residents will be using an outside designated smoking area, the following tips can be utilized by managers and residents to ensure property safety.

TIPS FOR MANAGERS

HOW YOU CAN MAKE YOUR PROPERTY SAFER



WORK WITH THE RESIDENTS

- Listen to resident's safety concerns and work together to identify strategies to increase the safety of the building and grounds
- Make sure that all residents are educated on the building's established safety features and protocols
- Help residents organize a community crime watch group
- Post personal safety tips for residents on bulletin boards, etc.
- Invite your local police department to provide personal safety tips at a resident meeting



MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROPERTY

- Visually survey the property; walk the grounds with a local crime prevention officer to identify potentially unsafe areas
- Keep sidewalks and pathways leading to the designated smoking area clear of snow, ice, and other debris
- Add signs that say the property is monitored by security
- Consider putting in an alarm system or security cameras
- Make sure that all entrances and the grounds are well-lit
- Prune trees and shrubs that may block visibility to the designated smoking area
- Place DSA's in highly visible areas

LOCAL RESOURCES FOR PROPERTY MANAGERS

Tips are from the City of Minneapolis Police Department and the MN Crime Prevention Association

- The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program is a program designed to make multi-unit housing safer; they hold trainings for landlords, perform safety assessments for properties, and meet with renters to teach them crime prevention techniques. Learn more: www.mncpa.net
- Contact local law enforcement for information and resources about providing a safe environment for your residents.
- Residents may decide to quit smoking after a smoke-free policy is put in place; Minnesota's free smoking cessation program QUITPLAN® Services can help: www.quitplan.com or 1-888-354-PLAN(7526).



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TIPS FOR RENTERS

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR SAFETY



TALK WITH YOUR PROPERTY MANAGER

- Discuss safety concerns with the property manager
- Report suspicious activity to the property manager and the police
- Work with the manager to organize a community watch group

BRING "SAFETY" WITH YOU

- If you go outside, do not go alone; take a buddy with you
- Do not bring valuables with you outside
- Bring a cell phone so you can call 9-1-1 if necessary
- Carrying a gun or a weapon is not a good idea; it could be used against you



BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

- Be alert; do not be distracted by listening to music or talking on the phone
- Learn to identify "warning" signs that a situation may be unsafe (ie. low visibility, strangers loitering)
- Do not call attention to yourself
- Read newspapers and sign up for crime alerts to stay informed of crimes occurring in your area
- Have a plan and know what you are going to do if you find yourself in a threatening situation

PICK A SAFE TIME AND PLACE TO GO OUTSIDE

- Stay in well-lit areas with high visibility; avoid deserted areas
- Do not prop open outside building doors
- Always lock your unit door and keep perimeter doors closed
- Avoid going outside at night; if you do, carry a flashlight

HELP GETTING THROUGH CRAVINGS

- Find things to keep your mouth and hands busy such as toothpicks, gum, hard candy, rubber bands, or paperclips
- Distract yourself with different activities such as exercise, doodling, or a game of solitaire
- Contact QUITPLAN® Services to receive free nicotine replacement therapy such as patches, gum, or lozenges (1-888-354-7526 or www.quitplan.com)