

# Fire Prevention

Presented BY: Treaty 7 Urban Indian Housing Authority

# Introduction

- ▶ The purpose of this workshop is to ensure our tenants are taking proper precautions to prevent a fire in the units.
- ▶ We will discuss best practices, things the TROs and maintenance see when inspecting units and how to use a fire extinguisher.
- ▶ We want tenants to be informed and educated by the end of this presentation and ensure best practices are implemented in your homes.

# What is Fire Safety?

- ▶ Fire safety is the set of practices intended to reduce or prevent destruction caused from a fire.
- ▶ Some of these practices include:
  - ▶ Fire extinguisher in the home
  - ▶ Not smoking in units
  - ▶ Evacuation plan
  - ▶ Educating your household on the importance of fire safety.



# How Home Fires Start

- ▶ Most home fires start when an open flame or heat source is left unattended.
- ▶ Some of the common causes include the following:
  - ▶ Leaving a hot stove turned on
  - ▶ Burning candles left unattended
  - ▶ Failing to butt out a cigarette
- ▶ In as little as 30 seconds, a small flame can grow into a dangerous fire. Within minutes, an entire home can be filled with black smoke and large flames.
- ▶ During winter months heating equipment like portable space heaters are the leading cause of home fires.

# Fire Hazards We See

- ▶ Tenants leaving piles of clothing closely to the furnace.
- ▶ Hoarding of various items in basements/lower levels and around furnace areas.
  - ▶ This makes it difficult to maneuver around basements/lower levels of units and can cause issues during an evacuation.
- ▶ Tenants not cleaning lint traps and venting

# Actions To Prevent Fires

- ▶ Clean range hood and cooking area from grease with soap and water.
- ▶ Ensure children do not stick any toys or other items in electrical outlets.
- ▶ Electrical outlets should be checked to ensure they are not worn or loose.
- ▶ Our units are non-smoking so tenants should not be smoking indoors.
  - ▶ If smoking outdoors please ensure cigarette butts are put out without any burning embers.
  - ▶ Do not throw a still burning cigarette butt in grassy area, near fences or the home.
- ▶ Clean laundry room lint traps regularly.

# Actions to Prevent Fires

- ▶ Keep highly combustible materials (example: rubbing alcohol, nail polish remover, hand sanitizer) stored away in containers at room temperature.
- ▶ These should be stored away from any heat sources which include:
  - ▶ Sunlight
  - ▶ Hot water heater
  - ▶ Space heater
  - ▶ Furnace - pilot light
- ▶ Don't leave candles unattended.
- ▶ Don't leave cooking unattended.

# Smoke Alarms

- ▶ Tenants should regularly check and test their smoke alarms to ensure the smoke alarm is in good working condition.
  - ▶ Smoke alarms should be checked monthly
- ▶ Tenants should ensure they regularly change the batteries on all smoke alarms.





# Using a Fire Extinguisher

- ▶ Every unit has been equipped with a 5 pound amerex fire extinguisher.
- ▶ Tenants should only use these for small fires.
- ▶ Knowing how to use the fire extinguisher can prevent a small fire from turning into a larger more serious fire.



# Using a Fire Extinguisher

- ▶ Use the P.A.S.S method to properly use a fire extinguisher.
- ▶ If fire is getting out of control evacuate the unit and call 9-1-1
- ▶ Never try to re-enter a home that you evacuated.



# Emergency Planning

- ▶ Tenants should have an emergency plan in the event of emergencies.
  - ▶ First Aid kit
  - ▶ Locations of fire extinguishers and water utilities
- ▶ Fires and other emergency situations may require evacuation of the unit.
  - ▶ Have an evacuation plan in place and review it with your children
- ▶ All emergencies should be reported to the authorities, do not hesitate to call 9-1-1 for fires and other emergencies.
- ▶ Communitysafety.net.com
  - ▶ Resources on fire and emergencies for kids and adults
- ▶ <https://indd.adobe.com/view/03814efa-a93e-4ef7-82f1-3f21194ebcef>

# Resources

- ▶ City of Lethbridge Fire and Emergency Services
  - ▶ Phone: 311 or 403-320-3211 (if outside of Lethbridge)
  - ▶ Emergencies: 911
  - ▶ Website: <https://www.lethbridge.ca/emergency-services-public-safety/fire-and-emergency-services/>
- ▶ City of Calgary Fire Department
  - ▶ Phone: 311 or 403-268-2498 (if outside of Calgary)
  - ▶ Emergencies: 911
  - ▶ Website: <https://www.calgary.ca/categories/subcategory-calgaryfiredepartment-grid.html>

# Basic Home Maintenance Discussion

- ▶ Basic Home Maintenance:
  - ▶ Fill up P-traps to prevent gases.
  - ▶ Keep Drain clear in basement.
  - ▶ Eaves troughs/downspouts extensions need to be flipped out.
  - ▶ Don't flush baby wipes and toys in toilets.
  - ▶ Shut off valve, main water supply.
  - ▶ Loose door knobs.
  - ▶ Plugged sink and toilets, do not drain oils and grease in sinks.
  - ▶ Loose electrical outlets/plugs.
  - ▶ Clean behind faucets in kitchen and bathroom.

Questions?