



Fire Safety

Balfour Beatty Communities

Smoke Detectors

In the event of a fire, properly installed and maintained smoke alarms will provide an early warning signal to your household. This alarm could save your own life and those of your loved ones, by providing the chance to escape. Early detection allows you to make timely decisions regarding how you will react to a fire. Because fire spreads fast, early detection is vital in extinguishing or escaping from the flames. In your home, Balfour Beatty Communities has installed a smoke detector and will change the batteries for you at your request. If you choose to change them yourself, we encourage you to do so when the time changes.

If your smoke alarm starts to “beep” or “chirp” every minute or so this usually indicates a weak battery. Replace the battery immediately with a fresh one and reset the alarm. Or, simply call your local Maintenance department and we will come out and replace the battery for you. If it continues to chirp, or if at any time a detector is not working properly, please call our Maintenance department so a qualified technician can service the unit.

If your fire alarm goes off while you are cooking, then it's doing its job. Do not disable or tamper with your smoke alarm if it activates due to cooking or other non-fire causes. Tampering with your smoke detector is a serious violation and you could be putting your family's and neighbors' safety at risk. Instead, clear the air by waving a towel near the alarm, leaving the batteries in place.

Fire Extinguisher

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing the fire until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely. You can purchase a portable fire extinguisher at low costs and place them in your home in various locations throughout.

Only use portable fire extinguishers when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke. Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

P – **Pull** the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.

A – **Aim** low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

S – **Squeeze** the lever slowly and evenly.

S – **Sweep** the nozzle from side-to-side.